



ISBN978-4-8401-3676-1
C0193 ¥580E
9784840136761

定価：本体580円(税別)
メディアファクトリー
1920193005806

お兄ちゃんだけ愛さえあれば関係ないよねっ

この小説は「とある事情で離れ離れになっていた兄妹が、再び一つ屋根の下で平穏な日々を送るようになった様子を、ぐく淡々と綴っていく物語」だ。たぶんそんなに面白くはならない。なぜなら兄妹の日常なんて所詮は平凡な——「さあお兄ちゃん、お布団の用意はとっくにできています。さっそく記念すべき初夜を過ごすとしましょう！」「秋子。お前はちょっと黙ってなさい」……失礼。もう一度紹介し直そう。これは主人公である僕が、超プラコンの妹を初めとする色々な女性たちと——「あ。ひょっとしてお布団じゃなくて、お外にする方が良かったですか？」「いーから黙ってなさい」……えーとすいません、要するにラブコメです！ 詳しくはページをめくってみて！

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Even if it is Onii-chan, there shouldn't be any problem as long as there is love, right?

Nah, Can't do it.
Things like loving my sister, that is impossible.



You are wrong! In the eyes of the almighty love, race, sex and nationality does not matter! Things like me and Onii-chan being twins are just tiny and insignificant matters!

Insignificant. You should say that is the biggest problem.
Akiko Himenokouji. Akito's younger sister. Bro-con.

My sister actually said that. What does Nasuhara-san think?

Please do not throw such a pointless question at me, or I'll strip away my lingerie and yell on the spot.

I can't understand what you are talking about...
Nasuhara Anastasia, a person whose thoughts and expressions are hard to gauge.



... Well next let's hear it from Nikaido-san.

I say, you are already my lover, ain't you? For Akiko to want to get ownership of you only now, it's already too late. Hehehe.

Urm, right. I must be really stupid to seek your opinions.
Arashi Nikaido. Strong sexual drive. Nicknamed "Predator".

... Forget it. I might as well ask for your opinion, Ginbee.

Akito, if I must say it, I am more worried about you having perverted thoughts on your sister, who had just moved in to live with you under the same roof.

Am I that untrustworthy.....?
Akito Himenokouji. Akiko's brother.
Sawatari Ginbee Haruomi. Akito's good friend.



Well, that's that, Akiko. The probability of the relationship between you and Akito turning into that of love is 0. That's the conclusion.

To really fall in love with your elder brother, it can only be thought of as going against morals and common sense.

Well, it's important to know when to give up, Akiko.

H-Horrible! Everyone's rubbing salt into my wounds!

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T-They are... wrong, right?
As long as there is love, there's no problems, right?

Chapter I - 25th March (The first day of living together)

I'll say it first. This is a <story of the lives of a pair of brother and sister, who was somehow separated from each other for sometime and for some reasons was reunited again and began living together under one roof, living their lives normally without any major happenings - much like the gentle flow of water, with no bumps and impacts>.

It will probably not be very interesting.

But of course, that is to be expected.

I feel that this is just the way how everyday life should be, for an older-brother and his younger-sister.

Well, it is precisely because of that reason that I am facing so much troubles now even after reuniting with my sister.

Let me say it again. This story, it will probably not be very interesting.

There won't be anything huge happening, no unexpected events, and definitely none of those extremely exciting scenes.

And because we are siblings, there will not be much fan-services either.

If you guys are expecting any of the above scenarios, feel free to throw away this book now.

Because there are plenty of excellent stories out there that deal with major events, shocking twists and exciting action scenes. Those stories will definitely suit your taste better.

I can repeat this as many times as you like. This story has no intention of adding in elements that 'exist to entertain'.

That is because it is me, the very person narrating this story, that hopes for it more than anyone else...

"O-Onii-chan?"

"... Hmm?"

"I have a request, can you listen to me?"

"What request?"

"Please sleep together with me tonight."

"....."While in the process of reading a book, I lifted my head and looked at the face of the speaker.



Long black hair that parts into two sides from the center. Like a (Japanese) princess.

Her slightly slanted eyes are glittering in anticipation.

She's totally like the beauty you will see in paintings. An undoubted beauty.

However, she is a younger sister.

"... I say, Akiko."

I took a sip of tea and continued.

"If I were to say it, I used to sleep with you in the same bed everyday back then."

"Yes, those were the happy days."

"However, that was because we were still kids. Right now, we are both sixteen."

"Right."

"There's a saying that guys and girls cannot sleep together after the age of seven. Your request is not something that should be done by blood-related siblings who are in their teenage years, understand?"

"Yes, I understand."

Upon seeing my sister nodding her head, I silently heaved a sigh of relieve. She is more honest than I had expected.

Shouldn't it be this way?

Even if she is my younger sister, it is a fact that we had been separated for over six years.

After six years of separation, we are more like strangers rather than siblings. However, she seems to have been groomed into a beauty beyond my imagination. Why don't you try putting yourself in my shoes and listen to that sister asking to sleep with you? I'll be surprised if nothing happens.

"Rest assured, Onii-chan."

She is actually that thoughtful?

My sister gave me a smile.

"As from today onwards I can be together with Onii-chan, I've thus decided to be a good girl who listens to Onii-chan's every orders. As such, I've gave up on sleeping in the same bed with Onii-chan."

"Hm, is that so. Well, I am really sorry. To think that we had been separated for quite a while, and yet I poured cold water on you."

"It's nothing. I am the one at fault, to have made such a childish request. I am sorry."

"..... On my stand, I do wish to try to fulfill your request. It's just that this is too... you know?"

"All I need are those words. After six years, Onii-chan is as gentle as ever. Akiko is really happy."

With a forceful nod, she smiled at me.

She must have been too emotional at the reunion, which resulted in her saying those words just now. That must been what is commonly referred as "impulse".

Right. Even though both of us are going to live together in this house from now on, there should be nothing that we have to worry about.

She is just like she was. Nothing has changed. She is still a great sister.

From today onwards I should be able to live with her under the same roof without much worries.

"Even so, Onii-chan has became really daring."

For some unknown reasons, Akiko said it slightly shyly with a flushed face.

"Compared to Onii-chan, I am just like a kid. As expected of Onii-chan."

"Hmm? Really? I don't recall saying anything like that."

"To think that our first night is not to be done in bed, but outside..... Even though it is really embarrassing, I'll still try my best."

"No wait a second."

I asked hurriedly.

"What are you talking about? What does 'first night' mean?"

"The very first night that a pair of lovers embraced together."

"No no, I am not asking for definitions from a dictionary. When and why has the topic changed to that sort of stuff? We should be talking about sleeping on the same bed, no?"

"Wrong. We are discussing about how I and Onii-chan are to spend our very memorable first night together, right?"

I knitted my eyebrows and said after a slight pause.

"..... I say, even though I have no idea what you are planning, I had never thought of spending your so called 'first night' with you."

"Eeeeeeeh!?"

My sister's voice suddenly increased by a pitch.

"That, that is a lie, right!? It's a joke!? To say that you do not want to embrace your first night with me, that is absolutely impossible right!?"

"..... But to me, I cannot comprehend your shock."

"We are separated for six years!"

"No, that has nothing to do with six years. We are siblings!"

"But prior to the fact that we are siblings, we are male and female!"

"No no, commonly that should be reversed. Prior to male and female relationship, we are siblings."

I said and again knitted my eyebrows.

"Let's get the facts straight for now. You and me, we are siblings."

"Yes, separated for a long time and finally getting back together again. Living together from today onwards, a pair of irreplaceable siblings."

"And that sort of us? To have our first night?"

"Yes, Akiko's really excited."

"We are blood related siblings!"

"Love can overcome that obstacle."

"Your love means family love between siblings, right?"

"There is no different types of love. To love deeply or to love superficially that is the only thing that matters when it comes to love."

Her arguing skills sure had improved during the days we were separated.

"..... Well, I guess I have understood what you are trying to get across."

"Right, so you do understand?"

"It's late into the night and we have to get up early tomorrow. It's almost time to sleep."

"I've been waiting for a long time. I am already mentally prepared."

"Good night, Akiko. I am going back to my room to sleep alone. You should sleep alone in your room too."

"Eeeeeeeeeeeeeh!?"

My sister shrieked. Her face became similar to that of a character in a manga. However, we are siblings and thus it can't be helped, right? Although she tends to stick a little too close to me.

"How can you do that? That's too much, Onii-chan!"

"Definitely not, I've made the most rational decision."

"Why should you be brainwashed by those useless common sense? We just so happen to be siblings, right?"

"Even if you are nonchalant about it, it's a huge matter if blood-related siblings are to do that sort of 'sleeping'! Get it?"

"But we haven't seen each other for six years!"

"Even if it is sixty years, the result will still be the same."

"To think I am really looking forward to it! To think that you will actually crush the innocence of a young girl. Onii-chan is a really horrible person!"

"Compared to the innocence of a girl, the do's and don'ts of siblings are much more important."

"It's just a pair of lovers spending the night together, why can't there be intimate body contact!? Isn't this weird!?"

"That. Is. Why! You have conveniently ignored something! Putting the lover relationship aside, we are siblings, no!?"

I've became slightly serious. How tiring.

Letting out a sigh, I took a quick glance at my sister.

My sister was looking at me in a stance that says "I beg of you" with a teary eyes akin to those of a chihuahua.

Looking from neck down, one can see the breasts that are growing due to puberty. It stood out from the slim shoulders of hers.

The long slender legs that put emphasize on her feminine figure.

It's just six years, but she looks like a stranger to me now.

.....

..... No. My thoughts didn't go astray, alright? That is the truth, okay?

"Well."

I cleared my throat.

"I am going to sleep. In my room, alone. I'll not back down on that."

"..... I understand. I guess it can't be helped."

My sister lowered her shoulders in dejection.

"If Onii-chan has to put it in that way, Akiko has no choice but to give up."

"Really? Well, I am sorry. I actually wanted to try to fulfill your request as much as possible."

"No, it is me who had made those illogical requests. To think deeper into it, it is wrong for siblings to do those sort of things. What was I thinking... It must have been because I am too emotional to be reunited with Onii-chan after so long."

"Hmm, is that so?"

"I'll not say those sort of things again. From now on I'll act like how the child of Himenokouji family should and live my life carefully. Akiko will not create troubles again."

"Hmm, that is some great spirit from you."

"It's nothing that great."

"Well, is that your true feelings?"

"Yes. If Onii-chan cannot accept it no matter what, I'll have no choice but to strike deep in the middle of the night~"

sound of door closing and being locked twice

"Ahhh? Not only did you close the door without saying anything, you actually applied two layers of lock? How am I to strike in the middle of the night? That's too much! That's really too much!"

It seems like she is saying something unreasonable beyond those doors, but that is not my problem. I buried my head into the blanket and covered my ears completely.

Chapter 2: 26th March (The second day of living together)

Age sixteen. Male.

Second year of high school.

Average height. Average looks. Average grades.

Both parents deceased, currently living at the house of a relative - aside from that there is nothing noteworthy. An average guy that you would find everywhere.

That is me, the entirety of Himenokouji Akito. Or at least that is the case until yesterday.

"I believe that bro-con is a sort of personality."

My sister began her speech as she ate her breakfast.

"Brother-complex..... That is a precious sort of love that can only be allowed if the two are closely related. Think about it, even though there are over a billion people on this earth, how many of the brothers will actually be loved by a bro-con younger sister? Maybe one or two, at most there will be ten or so. Onii-chan should first recognize the rarity of such events. Then, you should acknowledge the beauty of this unique love that is brought about by the close relationship of siblings."

"Mhmmmm."

"Next, for someone to openly show her bro-con feelings and treat it as something to be proud of, there can only be me. Bro-con is not only my personality, but also my badge."

"Really? Well, this miso soup tastes really great."

"Yes, I felt that I've cooked it really well today. There's still plenty left."

"Oh, great. Another bowl please."

"Alright, how much more do you want? A bowl? Or half a bowl?"

"Hmm, half a bowl."

"Understood. Here you go."

"Mhmm, thanks."

"Please eat more so you can get more nutrients. Back on topic, talking about bro-con-"

"Oh? This seasoned vegetables taste great too. Did Akiko make this as well?"

"Yes. In preparation to live with Onii-chan, I've prepared the sauce for the seasoning a long time ago. Does it suit your taste?"

"Yup, this tastes great. Akiko has became really good at cooking."

"Yes, I've put in effort to learn it. Back on topic, regarding bro-con-"

"Oh? This seaweed soup tastes great."

"That is just something that is sold at the market! And that means that Onii-chan has absolutely no intention of hearing my speech, right?"

Upon discovering my ploy, my sister nearly flipped the table over.

But what's wrong with that? Why should I listen happily to the talk about bro-con the first thing in the morning?

Not to mention, the person whom she loves is me!

"It is something really important, so listen to me carefully!"

"No. Well,"

I gave a sigh and continued.

"Even though I know you are a bro-con, why do you love me that deeply? To tell you the truth, I don't feel that I deserve it."

"That's not true!" Akiko swung her fist about and continued in full force. "I find Onii-chan really suave! Onii-chan is the only one I loved, right from the start!"

"We haven't see each other for six years. And we had just reunited yesterday."

"It had nothing to do with that!"

I don't understand how she can be so firm about that, but whatever. Her stand on absolutely not changing her mind has indeed been conveyed to me.

"All right, I understand."

Well, I should make a compromise.

"I'll listen to what you have to say carefully. Indeed, I cannot ignore the sexual preference of my sister."

"Please do not call it a sexual preference. It's a personality or in other words, an *identity*." [TLNote: Identity was said in English]

"Okay okay, your bro-con is a sort of personality that is so rare that you should be proud of it. You should be fine with what I had said right? And then? What are the feelings and thoughts that you are trying to convey?"

"Right. And so."

Akiko cleared her throat.

"As a reward for the delicious breakfast I've made, please hug me." [TLNote: The term 抱く/抱いて in Japanese can mean both "to embrace" and "to sleep with".]

"..... I am extremely worried about the changes that had happened to the inside of your head."

"Sorry, I got carried away."

"It's great that you realize that."

"Right, I've given up on that. Just a kiss will do."

"Doesn't that increase the difficulty of your request?" [TLNote: Obviously, Akito chose the lesser evil in his interpretation of hug]

"Or you can just hug me once."

"So the hug you are referring to is not the typical meaning, but the one used between a male and a female?"

"In any case!"

Akiko slammed on the table with a bang, her eyebrows standing.

"I just want a reward from Onii-chan! Why can't you understand that!?"

"I should be the one who feels like throwing a tantrum!"

"As long as I get to be intimate with Onii-chan, I am happy!"

"Hey, you are asking for more and more."

"..... Fufu, could it be that Onii-chan is still not aware of the situation he is in?"

The edge of her lips lifted slightly. Akiko let out a sinister smile with an expression that is full of herself.

"To indulge me in my childishness, it can be counted as being intimate with me. If there are people who see this scene, they will inevitably think like this: 'Ah, those two are really lovey-dovey'. Fufu... You did not realize that you had totally fallen into my demonic claws and still put up such a calm expression. Onii-chan is really cute."

"Well, putting that aside, can you get me more miso soup? It's really delicious."

"Right! There's more, so drink as much as you like!"

Even though she mumbled something with a slightly evil look, she still took my bowl with a bright smile when I handed it to her.

How should I put it... She probably is just too excited about us reuniting and hasn't calm down, resulting in her being shy. All the talk about having a brother complex could not be real and she was just saying it accidentally without meaning it. Perhaps that's actually how it is.

Honestly, it is impossible for me not to be happy about it. To be together with a younger sister like her.

*

Indeed.

This younger sister is pretty attached to me.

Back then, we would always do everything together.

As our parents are always not home due to work, it had always been my job to take care of my younger sister, who is of the same age as me.

"I love Onii-chan the most!"

Such words, I heard them everyday.

Of course, I've never considered it even during my dreams. That the 'love' she meant wasn't pointing to towards family members, but towards the opposite sex.

"The weather's great."

My sister said while sitting by my side and holding a cup of steaming hot tea.

Using an expression akin to that of a cat lying about lazily while basking in the sun,

"... If Onii-chan can do a lap pillow, things will be even more perfect." [TLNote: This sounds weird in English because "膝枕" can be used as a verb in JP, but "lap pillow" in EN is clearly a noun.]

"I'll say it first. That's a no."

"... If Onii-chan can do a lap pillow, I'll die without a regret."

"Stop making it sounds emotional!"

Even though I said that, my feeling's really good as well.

Even though we were forced to be separated for a long time and became almost like strangers, my younger sister is still my younger sister. These sort of feelings, they honestly don't feel bad.

That's right.

Right now, it is near the end of March.

During the spring holidays, we moved.

From the places that we both sojourned in.

To come to this tattered wooden double-storied apartment that has already stood for over seventy years.

(... I am surprised I was the one who came up with this)

I thought, while looking at the backyard that has not been managed and is full of dead grass.

Compared to the places we came from, this place is really shabby. For now, there is only the two of us living in this apartment that was scheduled to be torn down in the near future-

"I have to thank the Arisugawa family."

My sister said in a slightly serious tone.

"I've caused a lot of trouble for them and accepted much of their cares and concerns. They had raised me just like their own daughter."

"That's right. Even though Kiyotsugu-san and Shouko-san both have their own secrets..... Nevertheless I am still grateful to them, really. However, just this time-"

"It's already a thing of the past."

"Alright, I guess."

"Truthfully speaking, this is something that had been decided way back. It was decided on the very day I was separated with Onii-chan. One day, I will leave the Arisugawa family and be together with Onii-chan again."

"..... Well, I guess as much. Your actions make it obvious."

"Yes. This day has finally arrived. Finally."

And with that, my sister gave a light smile.

A smile that has more warmth than coldness. It's a smile that does not really fit the current atmosphere, a smile as though it was a falling sakura flower that was about to meet its demise.

As if for the past six years, she had constantly been looking forward to the arrival of this very moment.

"Once again, please take care of me, Onii-chan."



..... I thought to myself.

Really, she is well brought up. Behaving like this.

To be adopted by a family that is famous beyond famous and to undergo an education befitting of their status.

From her looks, her walking and sitting posture and many other things. She has transformed into an impressive lady that will not embarrass herself no matter what situation she's in.

Even though for these six years, aside from written letters (and it had to go through two checks, both the Arisugawa family and the Takanomiya family), Arisugawa family had forbidden us from making any contact with each other. However, I still have to thank them for raising Akiko well.

Well, as for the case where she became someone who can proudly announce that she has a brother complex.....

I can't really see it as a 'moe factor' and look past it. Instead, it is more like a 'grind ye teeth and wait for ye dad's punch' type of feeling.

"I am sorry, Onii-chan."

Just when I was thinking on such random things, my sister apologized to me out of the blue.

"Well, all those talks just now, they are really depressing. We should stop talking about it. For the current us, those are no longer suitable topics."

"Mm..... indeed you are right."

"Even though we are really close siblings, it has been six years since we last met each other. I feel that no matter what, there will be some awkwardness between us."

"Yes, you are right."

"Regarding that."

My sister cleared her throat and looked at me seriously.

"Akito-san."

"Eh?"

"Akito-san."

".....??"

Suddenly, I was called by my name.

"Eh? What? What's the situation now? Why did you suddenly change the way of addressing me? Didn't you always address me as <Onii-chan>?"

"Yes. So it is, Akito-san."

With an imposing manner, my sister stuck her face close to mine.

"If I address you like this, we will not feel awkward anymore."

"Eh? Mm, is that... so?"

We had been separated for quite a long time and that period of time happens to be the most melancholic period in the teenage years. Even if you want us to get together like the past, it is most probably impossible. Of course, I would love to get along just like old times.

"That is something that we are helpless in. I understand, Akito-san."

She said while closing down on me with an intensive aura and forcing me to lean further backwards.

"However, that's a pity. To think we had put in so much efforts to be together again... and yet us siblings had to act like strangers towards each other. Don't you think that something is wrong here, Akito-san?"

"Mm, mm, indeed, that is right."

Although I understand.

But what does that have to do with addressing me using my <first name>? [TL Note: first name here is in English in original text]

And another thing. Why does she have to force herself to end her sentences with <Akito-san>?

"Yes, it seems like you've noticed the main point."

With a smile,

"To abandon the term <Onii-chan> which I had used to call you for years, and changed to addressing you by your name. This action shows that I've put in a great amount of effort."

"Aha!"

"Isn't it so? To call each other by names, it is impossible to do so unless we have a very deep relationship with each other. To me, it is something very difficult to do..... But I've done it."

That does make some sense.

I've no idea how things work in America, but in Japan, to be able to address someone by their name, you will need to satisfy a lot of conditions first - this sort of knowledge, I shouldn't have to explain it.

In other words, if we address each other by our name, it will automatically soften the awkwardness between us.

I see. So she is actually considering a lot of stuff by herself. Well, I guess it is time for me reflect on it.

Isn't this something that should be done by me first, as an elder brother?

"I've almost let you think about too much stuff."

I retorted by reflex.

"There is still something not quite right. It feels like we are doing something wrong when I am addressed by you like that."

"You are just not used to it. Soon it will feel natural to you."

"But..... to be called <Akito-san> by my younger sister..... I still feel something is subtly strange."

"Well, there is a saying that goes 'the thousand miles journey begins with your first step'. We have to first start by things that we are able to do."

"Please accept it. With it, we will be able to make a step forward. And then, with this as a pivot, we will slowly shorten the distance between us. To erase from our hearts the awkwardness and hesitation, step by step."

To be continuously convinced by my sister, I am gradually shaken.

If we were to continue living together with that awkwardness between us, it will definitely not be comfortable. Also, I do not have any other methods to break past this situation.

"I understand. We'll go with this."

"Okay, I am extremely grateful that you can accept my proposition."

"It's nothing to be grateful about. It's not easy to be living together again, so I do want to get along well with you."

"Thank you very much. To hear those words from you, I am really happy."

A smile. My sister flashed me a smile that showed all of her happy feelings.

...Uh.

It has been like this since then.

My sister has always been an obedient child.

I am not boasting or anything. Her good upbringing has a lot to do with me. As I had just said, our parents were always not around. Thus, the job of educating my sister lands onto me. I've always taught her to 'be an outstanding person', and she had answered to my expectations wonderfully.

"Well, without further ado,"

My sister cleared her throat.

"Akito-san."

"Yes? What?"

"Nothing."

".....Oh?"

"Heehee. Akito-san."

"What?"

"Nothing. I am just trying it out."

"..... Really?"

My sister seems to be in a really good mood.

..... Well, I guess if this can erase the distance between us, I'll just let her be. To see her as happy as she is, it's all worth it. It is all because of the fact that I am incapable that had led to us being separated for six years. If this can allow me to slightly lessen my sins, it's nothing too bad.

"You seems really happy, Akiko."

"Yes, very happy. This brings me one step closer to my aim."

"Your aim?"

"Because, to address Akito-san like this, it's a lot more intimate than I thought it will be."

My sister is twisting her body.

"We had finally moved into our love-nest after so much difficulty, and yet we had not even touched each other once..... We have to break that predicament as soon as possible. If we do not break down the barriers of both of us quickly, we will never welcome our very first night, right?"

"Akiko."

"Yes?"

"Forget it. I forbid you to call me by my name."

"Ehhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh?"

My sister leaned backwards and screamed in shock. If I were to say it, it is you, who screams at such stuff, that is more shocking, understand?

"I really can't lower my guard against you. No matter what sort of stuff, you can still link it towards that."

"But, isn't it normal for intimate lovers to address each other by name!?"

"Since when have I turned into your lover? We are siblings, okay?"

"That's way too much! You cannot just take back what you had just agreed on not too long ago! There should be a limit in being fickle!"

"No matter what, no. Understand?"

"Wait! Wait a moment!"

My sister kept getting closer to me.

"How about this. As a compromise, I will slightly change the tone. Is that okay?"

"Change the tone?"

What is she planning?

"Yes. If I change my tone slightly, perhaps I can remove the bad impression that Onii-chan had. For example-"

She cleared her throat in a rather serious manner, then gave a smile.

"Akito-san ♥"

"Whoa?"

What's this situation? Is it just my imagination? For some unknown reasons it feels really dangerous.

"How's that?"

"Ugh. Even if you ask me... your actions....."

"Looks like I have to do it yet another time. How about this then?"

She cleared her throat again in a rather serious manner, then gave a smile.

".....Akito-san *pants*"

"Ugh?"

Wh-What's with this? It feels even more dangerous now..... To be honest, I felt a chill running down my spine.....

"Hm. Looks like this will not work either. Then..."

coughcough

".....Akito-san. Hee. Hee. Hee..."

"Ugh. Your evil intentions had just flowed out of your mouth."

Even if it is me, I have finally understood.

Really, my sister is just.....

"You know, didn't you talk about removing my bad impression just now? All those stuff you had been doing till now will just produce opposite results."

"Ehehe. Looks like I am busted."

"..... I say, please control yourself, okay? To link anything to that sort of stuff, are you a cat in heat?"

"Ugh. Don't you think that is a little impolite, to describe me that way?"

"Ah..... Indeed. I am sorry."

"That's right. Even if it is me who love cats a lot, who agrees that they are cute, who wishes to have a cat in this apartment if possible, who will definitely hug and pet a cat when I saw one on the street, it still disturbs me if you treat me as one. Ultimately, cats are just small animals that are in heat due to their instincts. Compared to me, who is horny for the whole year based on my will. There is totally no room for comparison."

"On the rare occasion that I listened to your long speech until the very end, and realized in the end that I am actually digging my own grave. How do I console myself?"

I let out a sigh.

And took a glance at the sister who is looking at me with a bright smile.

..... Forget it, I'll just treat it as that.

By constantly repeating these retarded conversations, we had cleared away some of the awkwardness between us as well.

My sister had probably realized that earlier, and thus kept harping on this topic.

"No worries Onii-chan. I'll not be horny to anyone, but you."

"Urgh. I can't treat that as a consolation from you."

And let out yet another sigh.

To be together with an outspoken and cute younger sister.

To be reunited together again like this, it has totally developed in a good direction that has way exceeded my expectations, and I am really thankful for it.

To be honest, it's a little too much for me to handle.

Chapter 3: 27th March (The third day of living together)

ring..... ring.....

"Oh it is you. How's your health?"

The voice of my friend was transmitted through phone. That person still sounds as optimistic as ever.

"You've waited till today to call. That's really heartless of you. Ever since you had moved I have been waiting earnestly for your call."

However, those words showed just a hint of complain in them.

"Sorry. Moving into a new house seems much more troublesome than I had expected. That is why~"

"Forget it. Even though I've hugged my pillow and cried in it every night due to you not contacting me. By talking to you through the phone, this regret seems to have slowly disappeared, just like how the morning sun makes the mist disappear. Just on this fact alone, I shall forget about your heartlessness."

"What an exaggerating fellow."

"So how's things? Cohabiting with your beautiful younger sister."

"That is not cohabiting. The opposite party is my younger sister, you know. Really, why do you have to start talking about such things as well..."

"Hm. And that means the main purpose of your call is to talk about your younger sister?"

"Yeah. That is how it is."

With that, I told that person the incidents that happened during the period I lived with my sister.

"..... I see. So you must be confused right now."

"Well, something like that. She's someone whom Kiyotsugi-san and Shouko-san - people from the Arisugawa family - heaps praises on. I think she has grown into quite the elegant lady."

"What's wrong with being elegant?"

"Well, she has changed into someone whom I can no longer recognize - except when she is interacting with me."

"But from what you had said, I think your sister is someone who has control

over herself."

"Even though she had repeatedly talked about sex-related matters with her brother?"

"She can't help it. Because your younger sister is someone who really-really-really loves you the most, to the point where she cannot control herself, right? From a male-female point of view."

"..... We are siblings, no?"

"I am not really concerned about that, you know? Anyway, your sister has love for you that surpasses the taboo line between siblings, this much I am certain of."

"Huh... Mmm. So it is really like this?"

"Unless those things you had told me just now are actually just your wild fantasies, there is no other explanation for your sister's behavior."

Right.

Even though I don't really want to admit it, it seems like that is indeed the case regarding my sister's actions.

"So that's just that. To put it simply, it is <accidental deterioration>."

"Accidental deterioration?"

"A cold could be healed to about ninety-percent, but due to carelessness, a virus can infect your windpipe causing the cough to continue on for days - that's the feeling. Your sister's illness is probably something like that."

"Huh?"

"Think about it. Your parents were always not at home, and as a result you had replaced them in educating your sister, right? Even though you are just her fraternal twin brother, who is of the same age."

"Hm, I guess. It's something like that."

"There's a saying that regardless of who, everyone will more or less have a complex on their father or mother. That is because for most people, the person who made them realize the existence of the opposite sex, will definitely be the father or mother. However, in the case of your sister, the situation is slightly special..... In the process of her growing up, the only person by her side is you, her blood related elder brother. And thus, for your younger sister, you are the person who caused her to realize the existence of the opposite sex."

"Urm..... I guess it should be something like that."

"Typically speaking, as time goes by, it will be natural to realize it. 'This person is not someone whom I can fall in love with', the body and mind will understand that fact. However, in the case of your sister, she was actually taken away from you just when she was about to undergo that experience. A process that is essential, and yet the main subject is not around. Perhaps the reason for her brother complex is due to this."

"I say. What is the similarity between that and your so called accidental deterioration of a cold?"

"Isn't a cold's deterioration commonly caused by one not resting well and taking in the required nutrients when it is needed?"

I see.

Indeed, this can be a possible reason. After being told by my friend's eloquent speech, I felt like I had understood something from it.

But how should I say it.

According to this theory, it sounds like I am at fault for my sister's 'accidental deterioration'. Just this point, it is really...how should I put it? Should I say that I cannot really accept it, or that I cannot agree with it honestly?

Because, the me at that time had my own problems to face too.

Our parents, as family members they are quite horrible. However, they are two natural people whom you can't really hate. Just like kids who open their eyes wide and focus on their work, you can't really tell them to put down their jobs.

So back then I had put in my biggest effort.

No matter what, for this sister, I have to shoulder the responsibility and and raise her up - like that.

"Forget it, that's nothing too major."

My friend said.

"I've said it just now, didn't I? From the looks of it your sister knows how to control herself. She won't do reckless things."

"Is..... that so?"

"Isn't that so? Even if the guy is someone whom she really-really-really loves so very much and had just reunited after a six-year gap, up till now she hasn't pushed you down - that's because she respects your wishes. If this is not called self-control, what else will you call it?"

"Eh? So now, I am someone who's to be pushed down.....?"

"Of course. Or should I say, if I'm your sister, I'd act the moment we are reunited together again."

"Whoa!"

"Well, that's just what might have happened. I'm afraid this sort of thing will never happen. Just be at ease and claim back the times that you should have spent living together with your younger sister..... Even so, if your sister has grown into a beauty during these past six years, to the point where you have nearly forgotten the fact that you and her are actually siblings - that will be another matter altogether."

"Hahaha. How can that be possible?"

'Bingo, you got it' - how can I possibly say that out loud?

- After a long talk, the long awaited chat with my friend had finally ended.

(How very slow.....?)

Lifting my head and taking a look at the clock in the living room, I tilted my head and thought.

My sister still isn't out from the bathroom.

Of course, I do know that girls spend a long time bathing. Even so, isn't it a bit too long? It has nearly been an hour.

..... Should I go take a look?

Urgh...but wait. It feels really embarrassing just to approach such a personal space like the bathroom. And I have to take it a step further by entering it and take a look? How can that be possible?

However, there were indeed such times, right? We did used to bathe together, right? Even so, no matter how you look at it, those are things that happened years ago, and cannot be applied to a sister whom I had not seen for the past six years.

Hmm. What should I do in this situation? I really wish to consult all the brothers in this world who has a younger sister in her prime age, and seek their help.

Mmm. Whatever. Better safe than sorry. This is no time to harp on such trivial matters. For now I should try calling from a distance away-

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..... Just when I was thinking of that, the sound of footsteps got closer.

A light and hurried footsteps. From the direction of the bathroom.

"Onii-chan!"

swash

With a yell, my sister yanked open the curtains and stepped into the room,

"What's with this!?"

"Urm... What's with your 'what's with this?'....."

I was frozen solid in an instant.

This can't be helped, really.



A young girl of the same age as me, entering into my view all of the sudden with just a towel covering her body. I think everyone would have had the same reaction as me, regardless of the fact that the other person is the sister. Probably.

.....Wait. The heck?

What the hell is wrong with her? How can her skin be that fair?

Taking another look at her from head to toe. That's a really hot body.

Long legs. Slender waist. A tender chest that surprisingly grabs your attention.

Really, those doesn't look that huge when she is wearing her clothes... Even if you want to conceal your figure with your clothes, there should be a limit to it.

Ahhhhh. Enough is enough.

Please let me off the hook.

"I say,"

While shifting my view to somewhere else,

"Just put on your clothes for now, okay?"

"Stop changing the topic!"

"Ehhhhh?"

"I am asking you, what's with this?"

"I am sorry, but what's with what?"

My sister's eyes had turned into the shape of inverted triangles. It looks like she is really angry.

I just cannot understand what caused her to be this mad.

Did I do anything wrong?

Considering the current situation, if I were to say something had happened, it must be related to the bathroom. All I had done was chatted with my friend over the phone, and then drank some tea right here with my legs crossed afterward.

The me who have absolutely no idea what he had done to incur her anger, is currently stared at by my sister with a "jiiiiiiiiiiiiii". [TL Note: "jii~" is like an onomatopoeia for staring/gazing.]

Lifting her rather elastic chest, she said.

"Clearly, I am bathing in the bathroom. Why are you not peeping!?"

.....

"Eh? What language are you speaking in?"

"I am speaking standard Japanese!"

My sister closed in as the expression in her eyes sharpened.

Urm, sorry.

Ignoring your face for a moment, can you please not close in on me with that cleavage of yours?

"Urm..... Can you repeat that? I couldn't quite catch that."

"I was saying, I was clearly in the bathroom bathing. Why are you not peeping!?"

It looks like I didn't hear anything wrong.

"Hm. I understand. But Akiko."

"Yes?"

"I think whatever you just said has seriously deviated from common sense."

"Ehhhhhhhhh?"

My sister exaggeratedly leaned backwards.

If you make that expression, it will feel like I'm the one who is saying the wrong thing..... I am not wrong, okay? What I just said is the truth, isn't that right?

"Please take a look!"

With that said, my sister stretched her arms towards me.

"This clear and smooth skin! It's beautiful, right!?"

"And so it is. It's definitely beautiful."

"Right!"

With a nod on the head that looks like she wanted to expel all of her anger.

"For Onii-chan to marvel at this skin of mine, I've took great care of it everyday!"

"Mhmm. Should I say thanks?"

"This is the skin that I am proud of and took great attention to maintain everyday!!"

"Mhmm. That's really impressive."

"Forget about peeping! You should be pouncing on me right now!!"

"I don't feel anything like that."

"Why!?"

My sister was dumbstruck, similar to a person who has been wrongly sentenced to death. It looks like in her dictionary, the term *<siblings>* still does not exist.

Upon taking a closer look, I realized that her hair is still dry. She must had been soaking in the bathtub and waiting for me to peep... it must have been something like that. She was probably happily waiting for me, while humming a tune.

I don't know why, but I feel slightly guilty when I think of it this way..... No no, wake up, me. The person without any common sense is obviously my sister.

Come to think of it, I felt something weird back then.

Even though it's the middle of the day, my sister said "I suddenly feel like taking a bath", as she ran happily out of her room. And on her way out, she kept sending me suggestive looks using her eyes. So that was what she meant. Hm, I didn't realize that.

"Forget it, and cool down for a moment, Akiko. Want a cup of tea?"

"Please do not divert from the subject!"

"What, so you don't want any? This tea is specially and carefully brewed by me, just for you. Well you see, wouldn't one be thirsty after a bath?"

"I'll drink it with much appreciations!"

In an instant, the expressions on her face changed into a smiling one. She took small precious sips at the tea, and drank it slowly.

Well, I guess I got it off easy by using just a cup of tea to make her happy. Even though she is still only covered with a towel... sigh... please let me off the hook.

"..... Fuu. It tastes really good, thank you. Tea that is personally brewed by Onii-chan is really something special."

"I am flattered."

"..... *coughcough*. Thanks to this cup of tea, I'll ignore your blunder just this once."

"Eh?"

Blunder?

Mine?

So this incident is my fault?

What a brand new way of thinking.

"As such, I am going take a bath again. We will start all over."

You are still going!?

"This time round, I'll wash myself slowly too."

"Hm. Is that so? That's not a problem with me, but be careful not to faint from soaking yourself too long in the water."

"Right. I'll clean myself thoroughly and slowly."

"Hm. Even though I don't understand what you are talking about, as long as you are happy."

"Then I'll make a move. I'll clean myself slowly, thoroughly and leisurely, okay?"

With that, my sister left the room.

..... She really likes to bathe.

Oh, it must be that, it looks like she hasn't washed her hair and body yet. Which means to say that these two areas will be the focus point in this time's bath. I guess that is fine. It feels comfortable to see a girl that loves cleanliness. For me, I welcome that, even if she is my sister.

What should I do now?

There's still stuff left unpacked, and in order to keep up with the pace of the lessons at the new school I'm about to transfer to, I should take a look at the textbooks as well.

Well, since it's still spring-holiday, forget it. I'll luxuriously waste my youth by reading some books without much substances while drinking tea.

.....

.....

.....
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"Onii-chan! I say, Onii-chan!?"

One hour later.

Accompanied by her noisy footsteps, my sister rushed into the room with a bad expression on her face.

"What in the world is this?"

"I'll not peek at you no matter how long you soak yourself in the bathtub."

"Isn't that too much? I've wasted so much effort to invite you to peek!"

"So you do know you've said too much. Anyway, I'll never go and peek; to peek at my sister while she is bathing and so on, how can I ever do such a perverted thing!"

"As long as there is love, pervertedness and whatever are just minor details!"

"No matter what, no. No means no."

"Urggg! Onii-chan is a bully!"

She actually called me a bully.

That's probably the first time I've been called by that term since I was born.

"Ahhhh! I've had enough!"

My sister was swinging her arms about. She looked furious.

"If that is the case, I'll never talk to Onii-chan ever again!"

"Mm mm."

"Please don't answer me casually while reading your book!"

"Yeah yeah."

"I am serious! I'll really never talk to you again! Please have a taste of being ignored by your cute sister, and then cry as you reflect upon your sins!"

swash

patapatapata

After she had forcefully closed the curtains, my sister ran towards the bathroom.

..... and after that.

Just as she had said, she did not talk to me.

She actually persisted for two hours.

Long story short, as she could not bear the agony of not talking to me forever, she came running to me with teary eyes and requested for us to reconcile. Something like that.

And after the reconciliation, she changed back into her cheery and talkative self again.

And as a symbol of our reconciliation, she had even squeezed out some cash from our already tight budget to prepare a luxurious dinner.

In that aspect, how should I say it? She is a really cute fellow.

Chapter 4: 28th March (The forth day of living together)

"Onii-chan, shall we buy some stuff together?"

A certain sunny afternoon.

While we are tidying our luggage from the house moving, my sister made that suggestion.

"Buy stuff?"

"Yes, I've considered for a while~"

As she said that, she looked around our 2LDK apartment. [TLNote: 2LDK refers to an apartment with a living room, 2 bedrooms and 1 kitchen]

"We do lack a lot of daily necessities. Instead of buying them individually as we need them, it'll be better if we get them all in one go."

"Mm."

The house moving was indeed slightly rushed. As my sister and I had both forcefully left our houses, we could have been treated as though we had absconded by the others. We did not manage to prepare much except for the basic furniture and daily necessities.

Instead of buying items individually from separate shops to tide us over, it would indeed save us time if we plan out what to get, then buying them in one shot.

"Alright, I understand. Let's prepare to go out then."

"Okay, let's go."

"I'll say it first. We can't buy things that are too expensive, alright?"

"I know that. We have to be frugal."

That is because we do not have much savings with us.

The rich people from the Arisugawa family and the Takanomiya family had offered us all sorts of help before; but due to what I had explained earlier, we had not received any monetary aid from them this time.

The daily expenses of us siblings come from my savings which I had amassed with some difficulties. Upon reaching the forth day of living together- no- or rather, ever since the first day, the funds of the Himenokouji family are in dire states.

And thus we went on our way.

We took a train that took us to the center of the city- yeah right, it's just a store nearby that is slightly bigger than your average ones.

"What a huge store."

My sister exclaimed as she lifted her head to look at the four story building, which had a park garage that can hold nearly a thousand cars.

For someone who was raised as a daughter of a rich family, she must not have came to these type of stores often.

By the way, my sister is currently only wearing her school uniform with a coat. In order to break off her ties from the Arisugawa family, she had basically left her clothes back there.

"..... I am sorry, Akiko."

"About what?"

"Because I am really useless. I can't even buy you proper clothes....."

"Ahh, you meant that."

As she said that, she slightly opened up her coat to reveal her uniform underneath. Her uniform incorporates both modern and classical elements into its excellent design.

"No worries, I really like this uniform a lot. Even at the Arisugawa's, I had been wearing this all the time as well. It may not look like it, but it is light and great for moving about. Also, don't you think it fits me very much?"

It is like what she had said.

It really suits her. To the point where it is like the uniform is designed with my sister in mind.

However, it is still a little...

Ultimately, if she did not leave the Arisugawa family, she wouldn't have to go out to buy whatever things she needs. To fall to the point where she had to scrimp and save on her clothes, honestly speaking I don't think it's something excusable.

"Please do not show that kind of expression, Onii-chan."

Contrary to me, my sister is smiling cheerfully,

"I need neither clothes nor money. To me, nothing is more important than being able to be together with Onii-chan. As long as this is fulfilled, I need nothing else."

"You really know how to talk."

"Also, don't you think that our current lifestyle is great? Take our current house for example, there's things to eat and a roof over our heads, I really like it. Compared to the Arisugawa's mansion, where I was surrounded by maids, I liked it many times better here. And also, we are now using Onii-chan's money all these while right? I can't even thank you enough, so why would I complain?"

"Really. Mm. So it's like this."

"Or I should say, Onii-chan, you had no assistance from the Takanomiya family, so how did you manage to come out with the money? That is the question that I wanted to ask. Regarding that, Onii-chan has told me nothing about it."

"Ahhaha. I see, that's..."

Well, we've finally came to this topic, huh.

It's not something that I can say proudly, and because of that I've kept it secret all these while.

Ah, even so, it's not something illegal. Rest assured.

"Uh, you actually want to hide it from your dear sister. This is a very serious situation. If you do not wish to tell me no matter what, I'll have no choice but to ask for help from the Arisugawa's intelligence, even if it means-"

"I say, Akiko."

I smiled gently to my sister, who seems to be mumbling something quite troublesome, and said.

"From now on, it will be great if we can live together forever. Even though that shabby apartment does have its inconveniences, it's also a very interesting experience- that's what I felt from the bottom of my heart. That's because I like Akiko the most."

"..... it's obvious that you are changing the subject, but forget it. Upon hearing those sugar-coated words, I can only smile lightly. Honestly speaking, my mood became really good after hearing that."

"Is that so? That's great."

She accepted it even though she knew I was just trying to chase her away from the subject. I really like this sister.

"After all, we had finally reunited after so long. The two of us should live together blissfully until the world ends."

"Mhmm."

"..... However, if Onii-chan insist on not touching me like he's been doing for a while now, perhaps there will be a day where I finally feel; disheartened and return back to the Arisugawa's..... ?"

"Mhmm. Why not return today then..... okay?"

"Sorry, Onii-chan. It looks like Akiko got carried away."

"It's great you realized that."

With that, we stepped into the store.

Even though it is not up to us, who are in our spring-break, to say it, today happens to be Sunday...as such, it is extremely crowded.

"Well, where should we start?"

I fished out a notebook while looking at the signs.

"Onii-chan, that is?"

"A list of what to buy. I've written down the items that we need to get some time ago. It was something that I discussed with a friend."

"Oh.....?"

My sister narrowed her eyes and stared at the notebook.

From top to bottom, then diagonally across, just like a thorough CT scan- just when I was thinking of that, my sister actually sniffed the notebook.

"..... Akiko?"

"Something's not right."

That line came out of her mouth.

"Onii-chan, what is the name of this person? Also, their relationship with Onii-chan?"

"Eh?"

"Please answer me honestly."

"Urm, there is nothing to be dishonest about..... Just a friend with a slightly weird name, called Sawatari Ginbee Haruomi. My best friend before I came to this place. Due to certain circumstances, that person has been living alone as well. As such, I've obtained a lot of information and experience, and was taught many useful tips. This notebook is the product of that."

"..... Hmph. Is that so?"

However, my sister kept staring at me with a 'jiiiiiiiiiiii'.

"So a woman's sixth sense can be wrong occasionally."

She explained to herself as she sprouted that confusing line.

..... What exactly is happening here?

"Back on topic. Onii-chan, what is that?"

And she forcefully changed the subject...but whatever.

Let me see, where..... I turned my gaze to the direction where my sister is pointing at.

And then, I saw a salesperson in red holding a sign that says <Limited Offer!>.

"Ah-. It looks like something is on offer."

"Of-fer?"

"To sell cheaply. *Discount sale*. They are selling items at prices lower than usual in order to attract customers."

"How much cheaper than usual?"

My sister's eyes are shining brightly.

"What are they selling, at what price?"

"Let me take a look..... A one-time use warmer that are sold in packs of ten at ten percent of its original price, or so it says."

"At ten percent?"

She got more excited.

"Calm down Akiko. Even if it is sold at just a tenth of its original price, those are actually one-time use warmers, you know? Spring is approaching, so now is not the time to be buying these. Instead of calling it a sale, it is just a front for them to clear their stocks-"

"Come to think of it. Onii-chan, what are one-time use loops? Are they edible?"
[TLNote: Just a Japanese word play here, apparently they sound similar]

So she is that excited even though she has no idea what it was. I say, this is exactly what I expect from someone who had education as a rich lady.....

Even though I said that, frankly speaking, I did grow up in a rather well-to-do family as well.

After my explanation, my sister got more interested,

"To think there is actually such a thing. Such a convenient item actually exists..... I've never heard of them while I am at the Arisugawa family. 'Those items for commoners are not something to be used by members of the Arisugawa family', or something along those lines. They were probably thinking like that. Judging a book by its cover."

"Well, I guess it is."

"Onii-chan, let's buy that."

"Hold on hold on. Our objectives for coming here is to buy daily necessities that we will be using, right?"

"However, they are cheaper than normal by ten percent?"

"Even so, it is just cheaper by roughly a hundred yen. Just that amount of money-"

"Even a hundred yen is important. Those who laugh at a hundred yen will be crying for a hundred yen someday."

"It is indeed just as you say."

Mm.

Looks like she is reacting quite a bit to the fact that it is 'cheaper than normal'. It is probably due to the influences of the Arisugawa family. They had a tradition of buying low and selling high for generations.

And also, it is probably just her simply wanting to try out something unheard of.

"Onii-chan, please make up your mind. Or else they could be sold out."

"I don't think the warmers, which are something of the previous season, will be gone in a flash..... whatever. Go get it. However, you can only buy one pack, alright?"

"Okay! Here I go!"

"I say, are you sure you can go alone?"

"No problem. Things like the differences between a five yen coin and a ten yen coin, I am still pretty clear about it."

I am worried.

"If it is carved with a '10', it is a ten yen coin. Even though it is similar, but if it has a hole, it is a five yen coin. Having a hole means its value is halved right?"
[TLNote: My text says 'toothed edges' instead of hole, but if you take a look at the coins, it does not make sense.]

"....."

"Please do not look at me like that. It is just a joke."

"..... Be careful, alright? You used to live a life where you don't have to step out of the house. I am worried."

"I know that there are other ways of paying for items other than using cards, and I do know that other than notes, there are other forms of currency as well. There is no need to worry."

"I am really worried."

"Here I go!"

Ignoring my worries, my sister rushed towards the place energetically.

Forget it. She does have a lot to learn about the new lifestyle, and this just happens to be a good opportunity for her to do so. I guess this is what you mean by allowing a child to go on their own trip even though you love them.

Even so.

She is really an attention grabbing, that fellow.

Black long hair, gray coat and black tights.

Those are actually your everyday common wear, and yet she emitted a very strong sense of presence. I looked on as the passersby turned their heads and gave my sister a second look. As a brother, I am honestly really proud.

Oh. She is stopping at the sales area.

Although I can't hear what she said to the salesperson, it is probably just something like 'can you please give me a pack of that'. Facing my sister who is showing a carefree smile, the salesperson's face turned slightly red.

It's not hard to imagine.

That is because my sister is a beauty that will not embarrass herself wherever she goes - that is, if you take away the problem that is her brother-complex.

-Oh. She's back, she's back.

"I am back."

"Mm. Welcome back."

"You see, I've brought them without any problems."

"Mhmm. Well done."

"As a reward, please pat my head!"

"Why?"

"Can I take it out and try it now!?"

"Ah. Mm. No problem."

Even though she will probably sweat like she is in a sauna if she use those things right now.

Forget it.

My sister showed a very satisfied expression after she had taking a warmer out of the pack and sticking it to her face. If it makes her that happy, I guess the cash spent is cheap and well worth it. Even though I cannot buy nice clothing for her, I can still satisfy her desires if they are on the level of warmers.

Well then.

It looks like I've made her happy, and thus it is time to continue our shopping-

"Onii-chan, Onii-chan!"

My sister waved her arms excitedly as she shouted.

"Please look at that! The limited sales have started again! This time it shows 'mandarin oranges'! It's actually mandarin oranges! Ah, looks like the opposite area has started as well! The detergent over there are actually sold at such a low price- I've not even finished my sentence, and everywhere else had started as well! Let's go, Onii-chan!"

".....Ah-"

"Hurry hurry! Hold on to me tighter, or else everything will be sold out! The stocks are limited!"

"Ah- Really-. I understand."

Forget it.

I do like to eat mandarin oranges. There should not be any problem if the

detergent are not used for quite a while. Queuing up together and buying items on sale does not sound too bad.

However, there are a lot of other stuff that we have to buy, and a lot of those are to be gotten today.

As such, we'll waste a lot of time if I were to queue with my sister.

There is no choice but to act separately from my sister and quickly buy the required items.

"Mhmmm.....? Split up with Onii-chan?"

After telling her my plan, my sister showed an expression of absolute despair and trouble,

"On the rare occasion that I am shopping with Onii-chan, why do we have to split up? Wh-Why is such an illogical thing happening..... there can be places where the stocks are decreasing rapidly due to the sales. Although sticking with Onii-chan is the natural thing to do, but to give up on the sales, it is just such a waste..... But I still want to be together with Onii-chan..... Ah, ah, ahhhh, uhhh, wh-what should I do? What should I do? Can't I have my cake and eat it too? I-I-Is there no other way-"

She looked really pitiful.

Looks like she really liked the sales.

"Akiko."

"Urg, yes?"

"I have a mission for you. A very important mission which you can't decline."

"Important mission.....?"

"From this very moment, you are to split up with me. You are to try your very best to get as many items on sale as you can, so as to contribute to our family budget."

"!"

"I'll give you the funds, and you are to complete your mission with these..... You do know, Akiko? This mission is not just for you, but for me as well. I do understand, that it is very difficult for you to be separated from me..... But I do

wish that you can use your intelligence and power to complete this mission outstandingly."

With a *swash*, I handed her the cash encouragingly.

"You understand? I'll say it again, this is for me. You cannot decline it, okay?"

I felt slightly relieved after seeing my sister accepting the cash with a dazed look.

"I have to split up with Onii-chan..... but as such, I can get all the items on sale..... and thus I can help Onii-chan....."

Her eyes finally showed signs of understanding.

"I understood, Onii-chan. Akiko will try her best. For Onii-chan, I will go all out to secure the items on sale and reduce the burden of the family."

"That's the spirit. We are to meet at the central square after we are done, alright? Well, let us get going."

"Here I go! Yahoo!"

What's with the 'yahoo'.

She looked happy.

With a bitter smile, I see her off as she ran away from me as though her shoes sprouted wings.

Whatever. Up till now, I did do nothing that a brother should be doing.

If it is just this level of her coquettish acts, I guess I'll let it be. [TLNote: My source has the term 撒娇, which is aptly used in this situation, and should have a similar term in Japanese as well. However, in English, there is nothing that comes close to describing it. Think of it as acts that Akiko did to gain the attention and affection of her brother. It's to an extent similar to flirting, but is "pure" and without the sexual/negative connotation to it, and can be used on many types of relationship, such as children to parents, girlfriends to boyfriends, and in this case, sister to brother]

*

Well then.

It's about time for me to complete my task as well.

Even though I am not on the level of my sister, I am still not too used to shopping like this. The funds are limited as well, so I'll have to be more attentive.

Taking out my notebook again to confirm the list.

Starting to search for the signs.

..... Hmm.

Come to think of it, this store is really huge.

It felt like the size is many times larger than the Tokyo Dome. It is separated into east wing, west wing and the middle spine..... The furnitures are located on the third floor, while the daily necessities are on the second? Even though the place has to be large to be able to hold more items, it's still a little too inconvenient.

Forget it.

I'll approach it systematically one at a time.

Hmm, where are the lifts-

(.....Eh?)

I stopped walking just after a few steps.

At the middle of the central square where I had planned to meet up with my sister later.

Typically speaking, that place should be filled with passersby, and yet there is an area of space without anyone. What is happening?

It seems like the passersby were all looking at that place with their eyes wide opened. Is there some events going on..... it couldn't be. It doesn't seem like there is some sort of argument happening there either.

As the place was on my way to the lift, I naturally walked towards that direction.

And finally I managed to see that space from amongst the crowds.

"Whoa!"

I exclaimed accidentally.

She's beautiful to the point where she attracts attention. The person over there.

Is a girl.

Her age is probably somewhere around mine.

However, she looks slightly more mature than me.

And she has a golden hair.

Her hair is long and soft, honey-gold colored, and slightly wavy. She tied them in twintails, and the length reached her shoulders. She was just standing there, doing nothing.



(A life-sized model?)

This thought flashed past my mind quickly, but she does look like a real human being. If such an item can be made, then human would have surpassed god already.

She's standing there silently- or should I say, she is emitting a cold aura around her- no, both are wrong. I should say that she is just putting on an emotionless expression. But even though she gave such a cold impression, it does not seem to decrease her beauty by one bit. That's really impressive. She must be the so called 'ice beauty'.

Such a creature actually exist in this world.

Well, I guess it's true that anyone would be attracted by her beauty if she was to stand at such an eye-catching place. I also understand that at the same time, they cannot get close to her.

Come to think of it, my sister's surrounding felt something like this. It looks like for today, this store has a certain ability that allows one to have a higher chance to meet beauties, whose looks are off the charts.

But oh well.

Even though it is indeed a shocking encounter, but it is just that. I better get on with buying the items. Even though we are living like this, there are still a lot of stuff that I have to buy-

Oi oi.

Just when I felt that the surrounding atmosphere had some changes.

That human-sized model actually began to make her way closer.

Instead of saying that she is walking in my direction..... Eh? Me? I was being stared at thoroughly- just when I was thinking of that, she had already came up in front of me,

"You."

She stood in front of me.

Her face was still cold and expressionless. She said,

"Called?"

"Eh?"

"Called what? Yours."

The standard blue eyes and golden hair. She looks slightly different from a pure white. It felt like her facial shape was slightly Japanese.

Her height is probably the average of my sister's and mine..... Urg, now is not the time to be analyzing such stuff calmly.

"My name?"

"Yes."

As she said so, she stared at me intensively. Just like that, directly and without any expression.

..... What the heck?

This is a really weird feeling.

Even though from my words it looked like she was talking to me in a haughty manner and expression, but that is definitely not the case. It really is like, 'I knew she is this type of person', that sort of feeling.

With a slight hesitation, I said.

"My name is Akito."

"Akito? That should be your first name. Surname?"

"Urm, Himenokouji."

"-Is that so?"

With that, she returned to staring at me.

"It looks like I got it wrong. So a woman's sixth sense can occasionally be wrong."

"Woman's sixth sense?"

Sounds like a line that I had heard somewhere.

"About that, what next? What is your reason for calling me?"

"Nothing major, just that I smelt a hateful smell coming off from your body."

"Eh? Me?"

"Yeah, you."

"....."

I've heard something crazy here.

Is it really that strong? I do actually bathe everyday, and I never had any body odor before..... Ah!? Could it be the dinner that I ate yesterday!? My sister's cooking is delicious, but she loves to add garlic into her dishes. Saying "Please eat more, to replenish your energy! Fufufu!" and such stuff. Even though I was already careful, it looks like I have to be even more careful in the future.....

"It's not the smell of garlic."

However, she shook her head.

"Ultimately speaking, it is a smell that only I will hate. A typical person will not even care about it, so it has nothing to do with your diet. Please do not take it into your heart."

"Urg, after hearing you say that, I am actually more concerned about it....."

It's natural to be concerned, if someone was to come up to you and said "you had a smell" on the very first time they met you.

"And so it is. I am sorry. To be said like that, you will indeed be concerned about it. I'll treat you to some food as an apology."

"Eh? Urm, it's okay, you can just forget about it."

Even though my time was unexpectedly taken up like this, I am not actually as free as I looked.

It is worrying for me to let my sister go unattended for too long, so I should quickly buy the stuff, then meet her-

"Truthfully speaking, it feels really awkward. Staying here."

She said.

"Because I caught too much attention from others, and I had nothing to do around here. Even if it is not I treating you, if you would just accompany me for a while I will be really grateful. You are here shopping right? Well then it is also okay if you allow me to follow you."

"..... Wait. This is the first time you and I met, right?"

"That's right. But strangely, it does not feel that way for me."

"Well, if you feel awkward staying here, can't you just leave the store?"

"That has its own awkwardness too."

".....?"

Looks like she's a golden-haired beauty that's hard to handle.

Hmm. What should I do?

Having said that, due to the fact that I am hanging about with someone as conspicuous as her, I was attracting some attention as well. There is nothing as uncomfortable as this feeling. Even so, it doesn't seem good to chase her away directly.

"I understand. Let's leave here first for now."

And so it became like this.

We walked towards the second floor where they sold daily necessities.

Should I be surprised or what, but just by being with me, the problem with her unexceptional ability to grab attention of others had been toned down by quite a bit. Not long after leaving the place, it felt like there were not much stares from the surrounding. This is probably similar to the alleviating effect of adding sugar into an overly spicy dish.

"It's really unimaginable."

Looks like she is actually sharing the same thoughts,

"Just by being with you, a majority of those uncomfortable feeling had gone away. Perhaps it's because of you, who is so ordinary that you have little to no presence, that acts as a really good buffer. I will have to thank you for that."

"....."

What is this?

Clearly, I was being thanked by her, and yet, what is this dark feeling that is boiling inside of me?

"I say,"

As I looked for wire extensions,

"You, what exactly are you here for? You should be here to buy things, no?"

"It's not for that."

"Then why are you here?"

"You'll be shocked if you hear it."

"Eh? That made me even more curious. Why?"

"For no reason."

"....."

Instead of being shocked, it's more like I am stunned.

If it is really as she says, she came all the way here without any plans, and as a result gathered unwanted attention which made her feel at lost on what to do, isn't it a little bit out of this world?

Upon closer look, the clothes she is wearing.

Even though it is just a simple combination of a red-colored coat over a white-colored high-collared dress, they do look to be of rather high quality.

They were probably not something you can buy in the market, but custom-made. I did live with the Takanomiya family for a while, and so I know some of my stuff. Aside from being rich, you must be of certain status before you can get such clothing.

Truthfully speaking, it totally stands out against this store, which is more for the common folks.

Really, what is she here for?

"I say, there is something I'd like to know."

"Eh? What?"

"Are you a virgin?" [TLNote: Term here is actually virgin for male, but there is no English term for it]

"..... Ha?"

"I said 'virgin', or in American it's *cherry-boy*. It's not 'route'." [TLNote: Wordplay, apparently both sounds similar in Japanese. Route here refers to paths. Probably something to do with the 道 kanji of the route vs 童貞 of virgin]

"..... Ahhh. So it is not 'route' huh."

"So, are you a virgin?"

"..... You are not asking me about route, right?"

"Right."

"..... Why did you think of asking that?"

"Can't I ask that?"

"Urm, typically speaking, no. If you really want to ask that, shouldn't you wait until we are on better terms with each other?"

"Incidentally, I am a virgin." [TLNote: Text is in female term for virgin. Again, English has no differentiation between the two.]

"Oi! I never ask that question, okay!?"

"Right at then, you had already knew a rather personal secret of mine, right? If that is so, you should tell me already."

What sort of person is this?

We've just met for the first time, and she forcefully shared her own private details with others.

"..... Do you know what is 'the right to remain silent'?"

"Mm, of course. Are you going to use it?"

"If necessary I will."

"However, I think you definitely will not use it."

"Why?"

"It's just a feeling of mine."

Her gut feelings huh.

Even so, I still felt slightly frustrated.

If you are to ask me why, it is because she got it right.

Being the only side who knew the private detail of the other person, it felt really awkward if I do not tell her something in return. Even if she forced that detail onto me.

Ah- I have had enough-.

There is no choice.

Come to think of it, she was setting the pace ever since we met.

"..... Ah"

"Eh? Sorry, that's not really clear. Can you repeat it?"

"-a virgin."

"How can I hear you if you are mumbling to yourself with your head lowered? You, do you really have any intention of talking to me?"

"A virgin! I am a virgin! Stop asking me to repeat it so many times!"

"Eh? Sorry, I still can't catch it. Can you say it again?"

"Damn you are playing around with me aren't you!? I should've said it clearly just now!"

"Yeah, so you did. With such a loud voice, the people around you are actually looking at you. Looking at the person who is announcing to the whole public that he is a virgin."

"Urggggg....."

"So I see. With your blushing face and your slightly trembling body, you are cute beyond words. Honestly speaking, that is just my fetish."

"Oi!"

What the hell is this woman saying!

A horny girl?

Could she be a horny girl?

"Stop showing that expression. It's just a joke."

"R-Really? So it is a joke. Well, I guess no matter what-

"Even so, I am the same as an Amanojyaku. My so called 'jokes' are actually the real truth." [TLNote: God damn it Anna, stop making it so hard. Amanojyaku. 天邪鬼 - あまのじやく, a sort of Japanese demon that loves to lie.]

"..... I, can I leave?"

"Sorry, that is just a joke. This time it is really a joke."

"That's great then....."

I say.

The so called Amanojyaku, isn't the current day term for it tsundere? [TLNote: If you don't know the term tsundere..... google it]

Or should I say that it is the modern day replacement for Amanojyaku.

Forget it, anything is fine. Am I slightly shaken already?

"Well, the thing about Amanojyaku is a lie. In reality I am much more honest."

"So what exactly is it....."

"Ah sorry. I have no idea why, but I feel like retorting your each and every statement. It's a wonder."

"That is what I should be saying, okay!"

"Back on topic. You do really have taste."

"What the, why are you talking about that again? Are you just simple or do you have something against me?"

"No you are mistaken. I did say it just now, I've no idea why but I just have an impulse to retort against you, to bite you, and to eat you whenever I am seeing you."

"In any case I wouldn't want that. Also, you are the one who wished for me to accompany you, right? I don't think you will be struck by lightning if you showed some appreciation towards me, you know?"

"Right. That makes sense. How mysterious."

With that said, she lifted her head slightly.

She is still wearing that expressionless expression.

What makes it scary is that she had been using that expression to say all those stuff she had said a while ago.

"If I were to say the truth."

While looking at me who was selecting the wire extensions,

"I, this is my first time coming to such a place. Even though I would usually have a bodyguard with me, today I am totally alone. Just like a lost lamb, I am trembling in fear, not knowing what to do- and then you appeared. You are just like a savior."

"..... The person doesn't exactly have to be me, right? Aside from me there were many other people there."

"You are right, there were."

"And truthfully speaking, I don't really have much of a presence."

"That's true. You totally make sense."

"..... About this, can't you just make it sound a little better? You had just dig at me on that point not too long ago, right?"

"But you"

As she said so, she looked towards me.

Those blue eyes of hers are crystal clear, without any hint of evil in them.

I don't really know what to do if I am being looked at by this way.

"Even though you are ordinary and not eye-catching, but I do feel that you have your own charm."

"....."

Ah-.

Really, how should I be reacting right now?

To be told directly like this, as though she had seen right through my inner feelings. You just feel really great. Even though you knew she said it out of courtesy.

"Well, it is just to butter you."

"So that is not even said out of courtesy?!?!"

"If I were to praise you a little, the Mr. Nice Guy will definitely not leave me alone, right?"

"..... Urg, even though that may have been the case..... Even if that is the truth, it is much better if you kept that to yourself....."

"I may not look like it, but I am pretty good at judging people."

With that said, she simply changed the topic.

"Good at both studies and sports, trusted by her seniors, and admired by her juniors."

"Mhmm?"

"Together with a sharp nose, luscious thin lips, and a beautiful gaze. BWH measurements exceeds the average, and tall too. As for the family background..... there's nothing to nitpick about, aside from some slightly cumbersome details."

"About that..... What are you talking about?"

"I am just doing a self introduction, that's all."

"Ohhh."

"Sorry. If I made you felt uncomfortable, I will apologize. However, I-"

With that said.

She stared at me blankly again.

"I just want to be on good terms with you."

"..... If that is the case, isn't there many other ways to do so."

"So there is. That is so true."

As she said that she looked aside and mumbled, "how unbelievable."

I feel that your very existence is much more unbelievable than that.

"It's about time I go."

"Eh?"

"I am really grateful for your company. See you again."

Leaving those words for me, she just turned and left, without waiting for my reply.

With a flick of her coat, she walked away sassily, just like a swallow who can't wait for spring to come and started to return back from across the shores.

She is a person that makes me think, 'a beauty is not complete with just her looks' and et cetera.

Looks like she said 'see you again' just now. Come to think of it, I haven't even asked her for her name.

Well, she was the one who came up to me suddenly and asked for my name.

And said that I had some weird smell on my body.

Right from the start to the finish, she is a mysterious girl through and through. What's even more inconceivable is the fact that I don't really dislike her.

Saying whatever she wants to say, and taking me for a spin, and yet I don't dislike it. That is the strangest point about that golden-haired beauty.

..... Urg, now is not the time to be thinking about such stuff. I've bought absolutely nothing. If I continue on like this, I'll not be able to make it in time to meet with my sis-

"Onii-chan!"

"Whoa!?"

I was called out suddenly. Turning my head, I saw the familiar smiling face of my sister.

"What's wrong, Onii-chan? You did get everything yet?"

"Urm, yeah. What about Akiko?"

"I've successfully bought everything on my part. There, please have a look!"

With that said, she showed to me the her loot.

Aside from the mandarin oranges and the detergent, there were also coarse sugar, soy sauce, rubbish bags, towers and et cetera, lumped together in the trolley like a small mountain.

With all those things, there are definitely some that are supposed to be bought by me.

Well, it looks like she actually knew how to use a trolley, even though I had clearly not taught her before. It looks like my sister's adaptability is way higher than what I had in mind.

"Even so..... Don't you think you had bought a little too much? Did I give you enough cash?"

"No problem. Or should I say, there is nothing here that I had paid for."

"Eh? Then are all those items given to you as gifts?"

"That's right. While talking to the salespersons, for some unknown reason they started to give me all sorts of stuff. Everyone there is a nice person."

What?

She had actually learned techniques to take advantage of others?

I had always thought she was weak, as she had lived a life that did not require her to step out of the house.

Having said that-

"Akiko."

"Mm?"

"It's surprising that you can actually find me."

"I am still able to work out simple stuff like these, you know? Even though this store is big, but I had already remembered all the things that Onii-chan is supposed to buy. As I had finished my shopping rather quickly, I just treat it like I am taking a stroll along the sales area, and while doing so I met Onii-chan. It's just like this, you know?"

..... Uhh.

Isn't she really capable?

Indeed, regarding the point about 'growing up as a capable person'. I had repeated it many times, but my sister did time and time again proved that point.

Could it be that my evaluation on my sister was too low?

"So, Onii-chan. Are there a lot of stuff that you had not bought yet?"

"Eh? Oh..... Actually, I had not bought a single item yet."

"Not even a single one? But so much time had already passed?"

"Mm. How should I say it?"

"Fu fu. Indeed, Onii-chan can't live without my assistance. Let's go. I'll help you select the items as well. Let's hurry up and purchase everything."

Sigh.

What is this?

I am treated like a kid by my younger sister.

With that said, she was looking at me really gently, so much so that my heart hurts.....

"No no, Onii-chan. Please do not mind."

Akiko gave a smile.

"Even though it's a little... that... to say it myself. However, despite how I look, I am actually really capable, you know? I am the secretary of the student council, and is well trusted by my seniors and admired by my juniors."

"Mhmm."

It seems like I had heard that line from somewhere.

"Really? Even when you were separated from me, Akiko is still a good child."

"That is right. That is because I am a sister that Onii-chan can be proud of."

Right.

Regarding this point, I agree totally.

"Good girl. Akiko is really impressive."

"Ehehe. Please praise me a bit more."

"Mm mm. Really really impressive."

"Ehehe. Please pat my head as well."

"I don't remember I had actually patted your head before?"

"Che, busted. To think I actually wanted to use this opportunity to do all sorts of things."

"Stop saying those stupid things, we should get going. We had spent more time than expected."

"Okay, let's go. -But Onii-chan."

My sister was frowning,

"I had been noticing it for a while."

"Eh? What?"

"Why is there a nasty smell?"

"Eh?"

"It's a certain smell, that puts me in a bad mood. Onii-chan's body had been emitting that smell non-stop. What is this..... It's really hard to put up with this."

rattles

My sister, a person who proudly claims she has brother-complex and has nothing to fear. I had a smell that actually made her feel intolerable? Coming from my body?

"What is actually going on here? I had an impression of it, but I can't remember the smell..... Or rather, my brain refuses to remember....."

"I-Is it that bad? The smell on my body."

"Yes. It is really bad. If this goes on you will cause an irreparable tarnish on the name of Himenokouji."

"Is-Is it really that bad? Is it that serious?"

"Yes. Certainly it is not a smell that you can be giving off in public. The situation is really dire right now. We have no choice but to solve it quickly."

"W-What should I do!?"

"Yes. There is only one way."

"And that is!?"

"Will you do anything, no matter what?"

"Yes!"

"A man will not take back his words?"

"Yes!"

"Then I'll say it."

She cleared her throat.

"Hug me right now. If you do that, the irritating smell on Onii-chan's body will be cleared in an instant, and instead be replaced by the smell of your cute younger sister. That smell beats any smell you can get from perfumes."

"Well, I should quickly buy all the stuff, then head home for a bath."

"Ehhhh!? Onii-chan wait! If you just want to take a bath, why don't the two of us do it together intimately?"

Even though my unworthy sister was saying something, I didn't hear it as the wind was too strong.

Well then. I better start on my shopping, which had been delayed time and time again. After that, I shall head home and heal my body, which was worn out by the various things that happened today.

Chapter 5: 31st March (The seventh day of living together)

"Ahaha. So it's like that. That's really too much."

After hearing my words, my friend, Sawatori Ginbee Haruomi, laughed.

"To think that you are actually told by two separate girls twice within a day. What's wrong Akito? Could it be that you don't even have the time to take a bath due to the house moving?"

"Don't misunderstand. I've bathed properly."

"I know that. You are a guy that will only maintain the moderate and minimum amount of cleanliness as required. I think you've struck a very good balance between the two. Also, I don't think your body odor has exceed that of a typical person."

Che.

Even if you said that, it's obvious that you are taking a jab at me.

"But isn't that a very interesting person, that golden haired girl whose name you do not know. It will be great if I was around as well."

"Hmph. I wished that was the case as well."

"Ara, don't be so angry. Even if we are a small islands country, this country is big enough as it is. The distance between Tokyo and Kyoto are large enough for us not to travel between the two places as we please - and also, you have no intention of inviting me over to your house for a visit, right?"

"Don't be too anxious. Even if you do not urge me, I'll still invite you over when the time is right."

"Well, that's great to hear. But Akito, it is precisely at this very moment that I wish to visit your house."

"Why?"

"Because I feel that it is currently the most dangerous period."

"Dangerous period... referring to?"

"The dangerous period where you siblings may step over that taboo line."

"....."

A moment of silence.

"..... Oi oi Gin. Ginbee-san. Aren't you worrying too much? Me and my sister? Ha, that's impossible."

"Akito, what's so cute about you is the fact that despite you knowing that to be true, you still put up that sort of disposition. Only when you know something like that is possible, will you use that joking tone to talk, right?"

"Uh....."

"It's a definite fact that your sister is treating you as a member of the opposite sex. That is because her approaches of getting close to you are overly direct and enthusiastic. Just like a runaway car that is accelerating without holding back.."

I totally agree with that.

"But then, she had never forgot the existence of the brakes despite that. She still can step on the brakes and control herself if necessary."

"Control herself? Even though she acted like that?"

"She can do it. I've said it a few days ago, that if your sister had the intention she would have pushed you down long ago. But the reason she didn't is because she respects your thoughts more than anyone else, right?"

"....."

"Well, I don't really have any idea how much self-control she has though. I feel that your sister is a good girl who knows the limit. As such I am not worried at all."

"She is a good girl, I'll agree with that. But don't you think we need to discuss more about the worrying part?"

"No no. If it is your sister then we really have nothing to worry about. The thing that needs discussing is you, Akito, right?"

"Oi oi. Are you saying I'll make a move on Akiko? Who is my blood-related twin younger-sister?"

"Well I do view you favorably."

My friend evaded my question and said that.

"At first glance you are indeed an ordinary person. Looks are just ordinary, and your grades hover about the average range. The teachers must have a headache while writing comments about you. On a grade of one to five, you are right on three. Not too active in your extra-curricular activities, and if I were to tell the truth no one really noticed you in class either. You are exactly the mold of an ordinary person."

"Well are you done talking about it? Forget it, they are the truth."

"However the value of a person cannot be determined by those things alone. Truthfully speaking, there was a period of time when I looked down on you..... however after this incident, I have no choice by to change that line of thought."

"Aren't you exaggerating things?"

"I was shocked, when you said you are transferring schools. That's totally out of the blue. Come to think of it I wasn't even aware that you had a sister. You've probably decided a long time ago that you will one day live with her again. And in these six years, you've done all sorts of things to prepare for your goal. All by yourself, without letting anyone know. As such you have to completely hide the existence of your sister. Well, that is a correct move. It is the basics to keep your plans secret before you act on it."

"That's why I am saying you are exaggerating things."

"Well I have no idea how you came up with your plan or how you put it into action. However it is not hard to think of it as something extremely secretive, and at the same time, were boring and repetitive underground work. And you trusted no one, begged no one and told no one about it. From the start till the end you've beautifully completed your plan by yourself. That's a good job."

"I've done nothing amazing. It's just doing something that anyone could thought of and done it."

"Something that seems as though it can be achieved by anyone, but do you really think everyone can do it?"

"Urm, well....."

"Even more so, your opponents are actually the Arisugawa family and the Takanomiya family. It's about time you admit to it. You've accomplished an

extremely difficult job, and that is an undeniable truth. If not, then wouldn't me, who had listed all your feats, look like a huge joke?"

"....."

I've no idea if it was because of embarrassment or something else, but I sank into silence. In any case I scratched my cheeks a little, but that will not return my blushing cheeks back to normal.

It was as though my friend had picked up the feelings of mine, the person laughed.

"And so I do understand the feelings of your sister. Of course, her brother is someone who had accomplished such a feat. Anyone will be attracted to that no matter who they are. Even if they are blood-related twins."

"In any case, I've understood something."

"What?"

"To be constantly praised by someone, it feels really uncomfortable."

"Ahaha, forget it, and give up. Isn't there a so called 'popular tax', saying that if you've done something great, you must be prepared for the praises as well?"

"You have to pay taxes when you are praised? Who will pay that?"

"Well then. What I want to ask is this."

Ginbee laughed while changing the topic.

"Your motive for doing such a huge thing. One reason is that you loved your sister to the max."

"Well, I guess. That girl is my most precious sister."

"To tell the truth Akito, I am thinking. Are you just like your sister, and view her as someone of the opposite sex as well?"

"Well I'll just say the truth then Ginbee. I'll tell you right now that you are thinking too much. That sort of thing is impossible."

"Is that really so?"

"Well, I don't understand, am I really that untrustworthy? That really is not

something that you will think about."

"Well, if it is like you had said, that will be great."

"Come to think of it, how you can actually say all those stuff with confidence, with that little proof you have? What else are you basing your talk on?"

"Isn't that obvious? Intuition."

"Oi oi."

Why did it feel like I've been hearing such stuff recently?

"The talk about your motivations are just points to strengthen my intuition. My intuition are actually rather accurate against bad things, and as such I am worried. I don't know if you had done inhuman acts that violates human laws."

"..... I say Gin."

"What?"

"Could it be, that you are angry?"

"Ahaha, isn't that obvious? You are asking that question when things had already came down to this?"

My friend gave a loud laugh.

"At the very least, I've treated you as a friend, and felt that we had deep ties with each other. Even if you can't help it, you still actually left without saying anything to me. That's cold, and that's regrettable. Could it be that I just that sort of person to you? Upon thinking of that, I can't help but wish to dig out your innards, to cook and eat them."

"..... Urg. Sorry. About that I apologize. Sincerely."

"It's nothing. I've said it just now, I know that you are not hiding it from me on purpose. Ultimately, being angry at you and forgiving you are two separate matters. Even though I am still angry at you, I've already forgiven you."

"Is that so? Ara, I am really grateful for your words."

"Even though I had said lots of excessive stuff, do not put it to heart. Just as you thought, I am just overwhelmed by my anger, and thus I am saying all sorts of rubbish at you. However, if you are my friend, please then forgive me for my

outbursts of such levels."

"Well, if it is only at these levels, then that will be great..... but is that okay? To be truthful, I am already prepared to be punched by you."

"I'll not do such an inefficient revenge, so don't worry. Also, my anger can't be appeased by just that."

This time the person said it with a light laugh again.

"To tell the truth, I had already found another opportunity to officially take my revenge on you, so don't worry about it."

"..... Oi oi. You are not holding back at all."

"I wish to return back to you the mental damage you've inflicted on me, multiplied by many folds. Well, just be well prepared for it."

"What the... Isn't this a little too much? It's not like I hid it from you because I liked it. It's the two families that we are talking about, so I have to carry out my plans in extreme secrecy..... Since you had said that you are my friend, couldn't you be a little more understanding regarding that? You, didn't you say that you had forgiven me for my wrongdoings? Being angry at me and forgiving me are two separate matters, that's what you had said, right?"

"Whether I am angry at you and whether I want to have my revenge on you are two separate matters as well."

"Is that so? Are you confusing me with your eloquent speeches that you are excellent at?"

"Stop trying to talk me out of it. You are the one who's trying to confuse me first, no? Well, don't give out such a worried voice. Even though I am calling it as revenge, in actual fact it is just something akin to a prank done by kids. Just casually wait for it while you relive the old days with your sister again."

"Che. Gin that bastard."

I placed down the disconnected phone, and mumbled to myself.

Don't worry you say. If you put it that way, it makes me even more conscious of it, no?

Hold on. Could it be that the actual aim of that person was to make me worry over it? It felt like that could be just the case. That person may actually be laughing while imagining me being all flustered over it. Even though that person is straightforward, Ginbee still likes to make fun of me the most.

However, after the messy incidents were exposed, that person was the first one to help me (that list of items and so on). I was wondering why Ginbee was not angry at all.

It looks impossible now. Ginbee's indeed angry.

That person was probably waiting for everything to settle down before releasing all the anger at me, is that it? Even though I have to thank that person for knowing the right time and place to flare up..... Well one of these days I should go and appease Ginbee a little. I'll bring along the cake that Ginbee loves the most.

And with that, we are about to enter the second half of spring holidays. Even though the cherry blossoms are gradually blooming, there's still a while to go before it is time to enjoy their beauty."

An independent life that protects myself by leaving others, this is a first time for me..... Arara, housework is a rather tedious activity.

Sweeping, cooking, cleaning, and many others. The things to do are uncountable.

Things that need to be done kept appearing one after another.

Even though one of the reason is that I am not too accustomed to doing these things. There is still too much things to do, even when I factor in that.

Thankfully I've prepared a lot of things before moving into here. There was a strong premonition back then that I could not leave things for later.

Forget it, sighing alone does nothing, it's better to start clearing up the things I see before me.

Uh, there's another thing that was not done.

Spring cleaning should be considered as done. Today is my sister's turn to cook, so I'll shift this aside as well. I'll be causing trouble if I were to help, since my sister is better than me in terms of cooking.

As such, all that is left is the washing of clothes.

Regarding this, as my sister had always rushed to do it, there is typically no chance for me appear on the stage. I'll keep the clothes before my sister return, or that was what I had planned, but since the clothes are still wet, I can't help it either.

Incidentally, my sister is out as she had some student council work to do.

This is the first time she went out alone ever since we got back together. She was saying things like "How can I leave Onii-chan alone! Wouldn't that be too lonely! Mainly for me!", and even cried before she left the house-

Just then.

Ding dong

The doorbell rang.

..... Who can it be?

Even Ginbee has not came here before, so it cannot be my friends. It was even more impossible to be my relatives.

If that is the case, could it be someone living nearby? Or perhaps a door-to-door salesman.....?

"Coming coming. I am opening the door right now."

Finally.

After pulling aside the Shouwa style glass door which has cloud prints, the person standing there is.

"Yo. This is the house of Arisugawa, right?"

"..... What?"

"Ahh. She's called Himenokouji now. Sorry sorry."

"..... Ah- right."

How should I put it?

In any case, let's start by pointing out the features of her appearances, one at a time.

First, red hair.

Red hair that is like ruby, tied naturally into a ponytail.

And then the eye-patch.

It's simple and pure black, just like One-Eyed Dragon Masamune's eye-patch, which covered her right eye.

Finally the Japanese blade.

Similarly, it is rather simple. A weapon that can be called as an Ootachi, and held casually by her left hand.

"Ahh this?"

That person lifted the sword and said,

"Don't worry. It's a bamboo blade."

"-Ah, so it's a fake. Well that makes sense. How can modern Japan have someone who carries something that obviously violates the weapons law, and openly walks on the street? If it is a bamboo blade I guess you can consider it safe."

"Well although it is a real blade that is named 'bamboo blade'."

"Hey that thing is totally out, okay?"

"Ahahah. Don't worry too much."

That person lifted her chest and laughed loudly,

"Even if it is me, I will not casually pull the sword out while on the street."

"No, although you are not wrong....."

"At the very least, I'll only pull it out in instances like when I want to trim my nails."

"That's not just casual, it's also rude to the blade, no!?"

"Ahaha. You are really good at tsukomis. I like you."

Oh.

This should actually be the very first characteristic that I had listed.

She is wearing a uniform.

Wearing a uniform that incorporates classic and modern designs at the same time.

Of course, it is a uniform that I am used to seeing.

That is because I am seeing my sister in her uniform everyday.

"Name's Nikaido, Arashi. St. Ririana Academy's third year student and president of the student council. In other words, I am your sister's superior. Nice to meet you, Himenokouji Akito."

*

"You are not quite like your sister."

She said while sitting down with one of her legs propped up, and her sword by her waist.



That's the very first sentence of someone who claimed herself to be a student council's president.

"You look really ordinary, and as far as I know, your studies have space for improvement. Are you those type that has his nutrients taken away by his sister?"

"Well, I can't deny that. But to be saying this during our very first encounter is a little....."

We got across the short table.

"Don't worry. I am not belittling you. It's my personality to be straight-forward."

"Even at someone that you are meeting for the very first time?"

"Well obviously that doesn't apply to everyone. However you are Arisugawa... Himenokouji Akiko's elder brother, and in my eyes that's akin to family. To be overly respectful towards family members, don't you think that is even more rude?"

"Ahh."

Well.

There's something that has been bothering me ever since the beginning.

"Well..... Nikaido-senpai, right?"

"Oh. What?"

"That. Can I ask about 'that'? Or should I remain silent?"

Eye-patch.

And the Japanese blade.

Typically speaking, the correct decision should be 'ignore them despite seeing them'. However, since she is my sister's superior, and she is the student council's president of the school that I am about to enroll in, there is no choice but to do that.

"Ahaha. So it's like this."

Nikaido-senpai's laughing in a 'chi-chi' sound.

"That means that you are someone who is turned on by eye-patches and Japanese blade?"

"..... Huh?"

"Sorry sorry. Even for me, this is the first time that I had seen someone with such a weird sexual preference. If I knew this earlier I would have been more careful..... I am really sorry to have made you hard for nothing. Don't worry, the same incident will not happen for the second time."

"Please do not decide on your own the sexual preferences of others. How did you manage to come up with that conclusion base on our conversation just now?"

"No worries, I'll take responsibility for it. If you wish, there is no problem with me giving you this eye-patch and Japanese sword. You must have accumulated a lot, and is almost at the limit of your endurance right? It's not good for your body if you hold it back."

"Like I said, no. Please listen to me."

"Ahaha. It's just a joke."

The student council's president let out a loud laugh. Really, please stop those horrible jokes of yours. Even if you want to talk about perverted stuff, that is still way too much.

..... Forget it.

It looks like it doesn't really matter.

I'll just treat it as her saying "it's better if we don't talk about it" in a roundabout way. As for me, not having to "pretend to not see it after seeing it" is just fine as it is - if I were to say, it is because there is another thing which I am more interested in as compared to the eye-patch and the Japanese sword.

"Urm, there's another thing."

"Oh? What thing?"

"Actually, there is another thing that really bothers me."

"Mhmm?"

"To be honest, I feel that it is not too nice to be pointing it out as well."

"No worries. Just like I had said, you are like family to me. Just say whatever you want to say directly, like a man would."

"Aha, thanks. Then I'll do as you like."

"Alright. Just shoot."

Clearing my throat, I directed my sight away and said,

"I saw it. Everything since the start. The contents in your skirt."

That's right.

You can say that I could see it extremely clearly. In full view.

The place that is not too convenient to talk about, was covered by a slightly thick red-colored tight pants.

That is because this person was sitting right in front of me fully exposed. It's no longer at the level where you just steal a glance at it. It's at the stage where it is weird not to look.

"Ahaha. I see I see, you can see it huh. I guess so."

However.

The person named Nikaido gave a hearty laugh and said,

"No worries. I don't mind."

"Even if you don't mind it, I do. I have no idea where I should look at."

"Incidentally, today's panties are red."

"Is that so, I see. Even though I can see it, but it's not too easy to differentiate from mess of red. I was thinking to myself, that no matter how deep the colors of the tight pants are, there is no reason I can't spot out the color of the panties. So that is how it is. If that is the reason, then the question is resolved quite easily. I was actually thinking if you are that shameless to treat the tight pants as short leggings, and thus you are not wearing your panties- wait that is not what I wanted to talk about."

"That was just me saying rubbish. I am actually not wearing any panties today."

"Ah, I see. The reason you wear a dark colored tight pants was a high-leveled strategy to conceal the fact that you are not wearing any panties today- what the hell? If that is the case isn't it worse? Stop spreading your legs like that!"

"Ahaha. Your reactions are really fun."

While saying that, she let out another hearty laughter.

How should I put it? This person laughs really heartily.

"That sort of reaction is a strength of yours which your sister do not have. Treasure it."

"Aha. Is that so?"

"Yes it is. Having Arisu- oh, she's called Himenokouji now. But it doesn't really matter."

"Yeah."

"Anyway, that cute junior of mine, the secretary of the students' council. She's serious to the point where she is as stiff as dried shit, everything she does follows the rulebooks. Although she is a capable person, but her brain is extremely stubborn. Even so, she actually had an extremely serious brother complex. I really don't understand her."

"Urm, well then,"

Upon talking about my sister, I finally remembered,

"What's your reason for coming here today? I remember that my sister has to do some things with the student council, which is why she had left for school."

"Well of course. I've gave her that task, that's why."

With that, she gave proud laugh.

..... This person, what should I say?

Since she is a third year student, there shouldn't be much difference between us in terms of age. Should I say that she don't really act like a girl? It felt like I am talking to an adult.

That's right. Rather than a girl, it felt like she is a vagabond of the Bakumatsu era.

And she is probably one of those who will become the founding fathers of the Meiji era in the future.

If you continue with that train of thought, the way her beautiful ponytail is tied up, it looks like a sort of bun.

"Well..... if I am not wrong."

"Yes? Speak your mind."

"From what Nikaido-senpai had just said, it totally sounds like you wanted to be alone with me, and thus gave my sister some jobs to chase her away."

"It is not 'sounds like', it really is. Himenokouji Akito, I want to talk to you alone. That's why I made your sister go away for a while."

"Ha. Talk to me, huh?"

"That's right. You."

Being face to face with the silently smiling Nikaido-senpai, I could only feel confused.

"Then, what exactly do you want to talk about with me?"

"Nothing much, it's nothing major."

With that, she propped up her leg again.

However, as she did that, she's in the state of opening her gates again. I felt really bad, and thus directed my sight away.

Regardless of whether I am willing or not, the next line made me shifted my sight back at her again.

"You, will you become my man?"

"..... Ha?"

"Will you become my man?"

"Ah, no. I can hear your words perfectly fine. There is no need to repeat the

same lines."

"Oh, really sorry about that. So, your answer?"

"..... I say. Are you for real?"

"No. It's a joke."

"Well, I felt assured upon hearing that."

"10% of it."

"Which means that 90% of it is real. Upon hearing that, my uneasiness had shot way past the threshold."

"Ahaha. That is a joke too."

"Oh man..... please do not scare me."

"The line, 'will you become my man?', it's a joke. You, will you become my secret lover?"

"That's exactly the same thing isn't it!?"

Or should I say that her view towards me had actually deproved instead.

"Ahaha. It's a joke, it's a joke. Your reactions are way too fun, which is why I couldn't help but tease you a little. Sorry."

"Please give me a break..... I am easily frightened, just as how I looked."

"Well please do not get angry. But if you want to be my secret lover, I'll welcome you anytime. I'll give you really good memories."

"No thanks."

"Why are you so cold? Even though it is slightly brazen to be saying it myself, but I am actually a good woman."

"In any case, nope."

"However, as long as you start an intimate relationship with me,"

As Nikaido-senpai said that, she leaned forward.

As though she had always seen the depths of my heart.

"Wouldn't that totally erase the unhealthy route of two siblings being entangled together in a messy relationship?"

"....."

It was at then when the sirens in my head started to ring.

Perhaps I was too careless.

Just from the few lines in the chat, it was clear. Just like the first impression of her, this person is not ordinary.

She deliberately came to my house, and deliberately came up with something to get my sister away. This was definitely no ordinary house visit.

"- I see."

After a moment of silence, Nikaido-senpai burbled that out.

She was still silently smiling, but that brief moment of dangerous feeling was gone.

"There was just that instance where the mood changed. It's thin and light, but the sharpness is first grade - just like the feeling one get when the famous blade is pulled out. Well my good man, I've finally understood why Akiko is so smitten towards you."

"Huh?"

What's with the 'good man'?

Well of course, I was happy after being praised.

But the person praising me was someone whom I had only met for an hour. She should not have even known what sort of person I am.

"It looks like you do not understand."

With a chuckling laugh, she said,

"You. Do you know what is the criteria of a good woman?"

"Urm..... what?"

"That is to be able to recognize a good man."

"Aha, so I see."

"Regardless of methods. It can be after a long period of knowing each other, it can be putting in effort to research on the guy, or it can be based on pure intuition. In any case, as long as one is not fooled by a fake, and finds a real good man. That is the number criteria of a good woman."

"Mhmm mhmm."

"Then there is another one. After discovering a good man, one must be able to capture him. It will not do if you don't know how to. It is meaningless if one finds a good man, but cannot get him into her hands. That is no different from fooling yourself."

"I see. So that's your logic."

"The foresight and the means - having these two points will do for one to be called a good woman. And for me, I am absolutely perfect at these two points. To add on, I am a great beauty too."

"You will definitely be a better woman if you do not blow your own trumpet."

Whatever.

Ignoring the point if it is correct or not, she did sound slightly convincing. Plus the fact that Nikaido-senpai's personality had already been quite clearly shown - however.

"And then? What does those words have to do with anything?"

"Even though you are a good man, you are still slightly dense."

"Sorry about that."

"To put it simply, there's a good woman - who is me, who fancies you. Himenokouji Akito, you are a good man who is really outstanding. That has nothing to do with me seeing you for the first time. Anyone whose nose are slightly sensitive will be able to pick up that smell. The smell of your worth of a man."

Even though we were separated by the short table, but in reality it did not feel that way - I had the illusion that our distance actually became much closer.

What a inconceivable presence.

"While on the outside your body frame looks slim, but on the inside you are actually very tenacious. You will definitely not give up once you had decided on something, and yet when necessary you can maintain a decent amount of flexibility. As an enemy you are the worst, while as an ally you are are more trustworthy than anyone else - that's the type of person you are."

"Ah....."

"Be more confident. Be more proud of yourself. You are an exceptional good man. I, Nikaido Arashi, can guarantee that. If you want, I can use this bamboo blade as a vouch."

"How weird. You had lost all your credibility when you brought out the name of that blade."

That's me. Both my mouth and soul are upright.

She really knows how to interact with people. Even though she was just saying all those out of courtesy, but if I was not careful I would have treated them as the truth. And her standards of evaluating a person, she is more like a sort of hero, rather than a woman. I can understand why she is the president of the student council.....

Hmmm?

I've just noticed.

"Urm."

"Yes?"

"Could it be, that you are actually trying to induce me?"

"Ahaha. So you have finally realized it?"

Nikaido-senpai slapped on her knees and let out a loud laugh.

"I am sorry. It's just that, you know, after meeting a good man..... However, I was not expecting you not to realize that I am trying to induce you.So how was it? Are you slightly moved? Are you willing to be my man?"

"I humbly decline."

"It's time to tell you the truth."

Her expression changed once again.

She was silently smiling, but at the same time she was giving out the same dangerous aura she did earlier.

"Some days ago, I've met up with the Arisugawas and Takanomiyas."

"- !?"

"Ara. There's no need to raise your guard."

She fanned her hands and continued,

"I wasn't requested with anything concrete. They just said 'please take care of them' rather rhetorically. However, Arisugawa and Takanomiya were not muddleheads to be just visiting me to say those words. I think you are rather clear on this as well."

"Yeah. Crystal clear."

If not, I would not have to be suffering this much.

"Well, you do not have to worry. I really do not have any motive. Just like I had said, it was nothing concrete. However, I do have some ties with both Arisugawa and Takanomiya. Even though I am not indebted to them, but I do have some sort of friendship with them."

"Which means to say that should the situation calls for it, you will be standing on their side as well, is that what you are trying to say?"

"Well, it is best if things do not come down to that. That's how I feel."

"Same for me."

"Well, in reality I don't think things will really boil down to that. I do like Akiko, and you are really pleasing to my eyes as well. Compared to that little friendship, you siblings are of higher priority to me. However, such things are life - you will not know how things will turn out to be."

"I guess. No, it is precisely so."

"However, it will be a different matter altogether if you are to become my sex slave. I won't give a damn about the friendship, I will just want to protect you."

"Screw this, now you are even bringing out the idea of sex slaves? Why is my value constantly dropping? To think you are actually praising my rather vigorously not too long ago."

"If you want, I am fine with me being your sex slave."

"Eh!?"

"Oh. So you are hooked. Are you interested in that?"

"No way!"

"Well, can I borrow your bath room to take a shower?"

"Please do not continue on the topic as though I had accepted your proposal, alright!?"

"Ahaha. Arara, you are a really humorous guy."

Nikaido-senpai slapped on her knees and laughed heartily.

"Well, don't worry. regardless of the Arisugawa or the Takanomiya, they won't be taking actions that quickly for now. So you siblings should leisurely fill up the void caused by these six years of separation. As for me, I'll help you guys out as long as it is within my means."

Just like that, the manly student council's president left.

Just like her name, she was totally like a violent storm. [TLNote: 嵐 (Arashi), Nikaido's name, means storm]

She appeared all of the sudden, wreaked havoc, and then simply vanished.

If she is not a storm, then she must have been some sort of elusive villain.

Ahhh... she had left a really deep impression on me.

What's left was to interpret what she had said.

(Well, I guess I'll just have to take them as they are.)

That was what I thought.

I guess she is not one to lie.

Even though she can probably come up with all sorts of lies if it is really needed from her, but just this once, that should not be the case.

She is not lying, but it also feels like she is not hiding anything from me. Indeed, she had a glib tongue, but it has not reached the point where it feels like she is a crafty person.

She was probably here to gain my trust - or in another words, she was selling her trustworthiness to me. That was probably her reason for the visit.

"As an enemy you are the worst, while as an ally you are more trustworthy than anyone else."

It seems like that's how Nikaido-senpai had evaluated me.

Well, what a great way of putting it, I thought.

At the very least, I do not wish to be enemies with Nikaido-senpai. If there exist even the slightest possibility of being enemies with her, then I'll resort to anything to erase that possibility.

However.

If the situation becomes "if you do not want to be enemies with me, then you are to become my sex slave", then please forget what I had said just now.

However, there are definitely many guys out there who are hooked by those methods. Putting her characteristics aside, just on her figure alone, she is someone at the level of the models appearing at the branded fashion shows. I think those with a M personality will definitely roll themselves towards her bottom of her foot. [TLNote: M = masochist]

Ah- no. I am not talking about myself, alright? I am definitely not interested in that, okay?

Since my sister is not around today, I'll have to do the rest of the housework.

After clearing those chores, I'll have to start preparing in order to catch up with the studies at the new school. Upon clearing all those, I'll have to resume the work which I had ignored for quite a while now.

This is not looking good.

The things to be done are piling up.

Hmm, where should I begin?

House-cleaning was basically done. If that is the case-

Oh.

The clothes that were washed should be dry by now.

"Ohhh. They are dry."

I went to the courtyard to take a look, and the totally dried clothes were swaying slightly in the gentle breeze.

This was the victory of the rare good weather that we get at the later half of March. I thanked the sun for its grace.

I couldn't help but be happy, and began to collect the washed clothes one piece at a time, while humming to a tune.

Well, after folding these up, it will be time for my studies. There is not much time left till the school starts. I would have to finish this as efficiently as I could,

"Ahhhhhhhhhh~!"

At then came a loud scream.

What? What? Are there cats in heat that are fighting?

As I was thinking of that, I turned my head,

"O-O-O, Onii-chan.....!"

Looks like my younger sister was just back from school.

"Oi Akiko, what's with that voice of yours. It will be really embarrassing if the neighbors heard that. Please act like how a girl should."

"Wh-What are you doing?"

"What am I doing? Taking in the clothes?"

"Onii-chan, in that hand, the thing you are holding.....?"

"Eh? What else could it be? Isn't this your panties?"

"!"

Her face flushed red in an instant.

pa pa pa She walked towards me with huge steps.

She snatched away the pair of panties that I was holding in my hands, as well as the rest of the clothes that I had collected.

Hurriedly, she moved three steps back.

And then, she tried to intimidate me with a "Hmph!"



"..... Are you an animal? Calm down for a second."

"Is this the situation to be calm!? M-M-M-My un-un-underwear was.....!"

"Ha? This would mean nothing to you in the past."

"Nothing of the sort!"

"You were clearly angry at me for not peeping at you while you are bathing. And you actually came right at me with just a bath towel on your body."

"Surprise attacks like these are not allowed!"

"I'm not bothered by it though. It's my sister's underwear after all."

"That tone, now I am angry at it for a totally different reason!"

Really, what was she saying? I couldn't understand her.

How does her sense of shame works?

"..... Fuu- haa. Fuu- haa."

While I was there speechless, my sister placed her hands on her chest and took in deep breaths.

After her peach colored face returned back to their original colors, she looked at me with a 'jiiiiii',

"Even if you are the Onii-chan whom I loved a lot, I still cannot forgive you for such a boorish act!"

"..... What had I done to deserve that?"

"It's the underwear of a teenage girl? They belong to me, your cute younger sister! If you want to take this underwear to sniff it I'll give them to you happily, as naturally as me giving you a piece of cleaning cloth- Ahhh, indeed I still cannot forgive you. Onii-chan's excessively overboard attitude has hurt my fragile heart deeply!"

"Calm down. If you ask a hundred people, I am sure a hundred will say that 'what you had said is just too atrocious.'"

"This has nothing to do with the rest of the world! There are rules in the Himenokouji household! Onii-chan had obviously broken those rules!"

"Uhhh... Mm."

When did that rule exist? But I guess it is not a good time to be asking that.

Even though I did not feel like I had done anything wrong, but after being told by her I did realize that I had lacked some consideration at this matter. Also, it did not seem like my sister will let things go just as it is.

"..... Even though I cannot really accept everything, but I understand. Indeed, there are still some etiquettes to follow regardless of how close we are. I am wrong to collect the clothes on my own accord."

"Are you reflecting on it?"

"Mhmm."

"Really?"

"Of course."

"I understand. Then I shall let you off the hook for today. In exchange-

"I say Akiko."

"Yes?"

"Even though the possibility of it is low. You can't be thinking of saying things like 'please hug me' while taking advantage of all the confusion, right?"

"....."

"Akiko?"

"Onii-chan. Don't you think you had went a little overboard with that?"

"Eh?"

"I felt hurt, to be thought of as that sort of person. Much more than when I see you touching my panties without my permission. To request for something unreasonable while Onii-chan knew he is wrong - how will I do such an unreasonable thing?"

"Hmm..... is that so? I am really sorry. It looks like I had thought too much about it."

"Really, Onii-chan. Please take note of what you say in the future."

"Sorry, sorry."

"Really, there has to be a limit of you talking nonsense. All I want was for Onii-chan's lips to touch mine. Just a small request-"

"Akiko."

"Yes."

"That's really great. If you really are to request for that, I'll have no choice but to end our brother-sister relationship."

"Uh- th-that..."

"Well, this topic shall end here, alright? Come, let's be on good terms again."

"W-Wait! This sort of opportunity does not come by often- no wait, I'll not accept it unless you fulfill my request and also apologize to me!"

"No way."

"If a kiss will not do, then please hug me instead!"

"So it has went back to that!"

"At the very least, pat my head!"

"No no."

"I-If that's the case, then, then-"

"Ahh. I say, Akiko."

It looks like things will turn out to be like usual, so I had better change the topic.

"You had joined the students council right? You are the secretary, if I remember correctly?"

"Huh!? Please do not try to forcefully change the topic! Just today, no matter what, I will have to get my reward! If not, I'll be standing her all day and not move an inch! I'll not cook nor clean the house, or do anything!"

"Ah. Akiko is a really impressive child."

"Eh?"

"Joining the students council in order to serve the school. If that is not impressive enough, you actually had to go back on a holiday to clear the work of the student council. This is not something you can do easily. Oh, I do feel that you are really impressive."

"I-Is that so.....?"

"Yes it is. You are a capable child. A younger sister that I am proud of."

"Pl-Please praise me more."

"Akiko is really splendid. You are someone in this world who is unique, who is

irreplaceable to me. The perfect younger sister."

"Ehehe..... It's g-great that you know that. Well then, shouldn't you give some reward to your cute little sister-"

"And because you are such an excellent younger sister, Akiko will definitely not do things that will trouble her elder brother, right?"

"Eh? Well regarding that-"

"No. I should say that I had totally basked myself in the light of my sister. I can't thank god enough for such luck. Ahhhh, I am really blessed."

"..... Urm I say, Onii-chan. With such a cute sister, shouldn't you be repaying her with some sort of reward?"

"Ahhh come to think of it."

Well.

If I change the subject here, and try to just bury the topic. That should be a *mission complete* from me.

As for the next topic- ahh. I've got one.

"What sort of person is the student council's president like?"

"Eh?"

"The student council's president of St. Ririana Academy. She's your superior right? I was thinking, what sort of person will the president be?"

"Keep this a secret from your sister, or else things will get messy" - as Nikaido-senpai had requested for that earlier, I'll kept her visit a secret for now.

"From my point of view, I am putting you in that person's care. As your elder brother, I wish to understand more about that person right now."

"So that is how it is. I see."

..... Is that just my illusion?

My sister, who was nodding her head slightly, had a sudden small change in her use of words. She had even straightened her back.

"The president is someone whom deserves respect. She is good at winning people's hearts, and she knows how to use people well. Also, she is not just good at talking, but she is actually very capable as well, and is very dependable during emergency situations. She is easy-going and understanding, and thus have lots of friends. As a leader, I feel that there is no one who is more suitable than her. It will not be exaggerating to say that she is born with the

temperament of a hero."

Oh-.

It's really rare for my sister to say things like that.

"However, her sexual preferences could not be worse."

Ah.....

"Regardless of male or female, her sexual preferences are horrible."

So she is bisexual?

"Incidentally, her nickname is called 'Predator'."

How can this be?

That's a huge contrast.

"Onii-chan. I'll just give you an advice while we are on topic."

My sister suddenly pulled her face close to mine.

She lifted her index finger, and said in an extremely serious manner,

"It's better if you do not get close to Nikaido-kaichou... Nikaido-senpai."

"I-Is that so?"

"That is for the sake of Onii-chan."

"However, she is someone who has taken care of you. Don't you think that I should at the very least pay her a visit?"

"You are absolutely right. But just this once, you should forgo it."

"But I will be studying in the same school as you do starting this spring. How will I be able to avoid the president?"

"Even though I am well aware of that, but still I have to warn you again. Try not to get close to that person."

"U-Urm. Is she that dangerous?"

"Her nickname 'Predator' is not just for show. Naturally, talking to her is out of the question. If possible, avoid eye-contact as well, or you will get pregnant."

"Ehhhhhhh?"

"Regardless of your sex. She is that type of person."

"I-Is it that serious.....?"

"Yes. If she ever manage to see someone like Onii-chan some day, she will not hesitate to eat you up. Well of course as long as I am around, I will definitely not let her do as she please..... In any case, to me, I have the responsibility to protect Onii-chan's virginity. Please, listen to me, and try not to come into contact with that person, alright?"

..... Forget it.

The fact that I had involved myself with the student council's president, that is something that cannot be changed.

And I had the feeling that this evil relationship can no longer be severed.

Well, I guess for this case, silence is golden.

"Ahhhhh..... even though it is the ultimate bliss to be in the same school as Onii-chan is. However, I am really really really uneasy about the fact that Onii-chan may get himself within a fifty-meter radius from the president..... Ahhh..... although there is someone whom I wish Onii-chan will never come into contact with, even more so than the president..... However, the actual dangers that person posed is still lesser than that of the president."

"Well, you do not have to worry too much, Akiko. I am no longer a kid. Even if that president are to do anything dangerous, I can still at least defend myself."

"Naive! Onii-chan you are too naive! Onii-chan can only say that because you have no idea how scary she is!"

"But..... since we are in the same school, that is not something avoidable, right?"

"Even so, but please be more conscious about it! On the fact that the school has a scary predator, and Onii-chan is the poor prey! If someone like Onii-chan is to meet that person, he will definitely be 'awu', 'gabu', 'guru' in an instant!"

[TLNote: Apparently, onomatopoeia for opening the mouth, biting and swallowing respectively]

"I understand, I understand. I'll be careful."

"..... Uhhhhh, I am really worried. Too worried. No matter how careful Onii-chan is, as long as that person get serious, Onii-chan will be like a rabbit being locked on by an eagle..... I don't care anymore. Instead of allowing that to happen, I should eat Onii-chan prior to that! The best solution is to allow me to enjoy you! As such, Onii-chan, for tonight, please-"

"To me, you are the most dangerous predator, so please be aware of that!"

"Please do not say that! At the very least, allow me to sleep in the same bed as

you!"

"No no. Alright, it is about time for you to prepare dinner. I still have to get myself accustomed to the school's curriculum."

"Please accommodate to my request! I just want our beds to be next to each other while we sleep!"

"Ah- that's right. I should start to clean the courtyard."

"Just the bed touching each other! Really just touching each other! I swear I will not do anything else! Really!"

"I had not been paying much attention to the courtyard ever since we moved in here. I should start doing this before studying."

"O-Onii-chan is ignoring me! How mean! This is a serious case of domestic violence! If you continue to torture your cute sister like this, you will be brought to court some day!? If that happens are you fine with it!?"

"Oi Akiko. Where is the broom? I didn't see it."

"..... sob sob..... Onii-chan you meanie."

As for the above conversation, I've noted it down in my brain.

Nikaido Arashi - she probably is on our side, but I must still be careful of her.

Chapter 6: 3rd April (The tenth day of living together)

Well then.

Even though it is a bit... that... to say it at this moment, but from this summer onwards, I am in a situation where I have to attend the same school as my sister.

St Ririana Academy.

Although I was not too familiar with it due to me living in Kyoto for a while, here - at Tokyo, it is considered to be a rather famous school.

Just as the name suggest, it is a Christian school. All students studying here are from famous families, although that is something not too surprising. The interesting thing about this school is that the students are unlike those of typical schools for the rich, in the sense that they don't seem to be pampered.

Firstly, there is no such thing as an automatic promotion system.

Of course, as such, there will be a huge number of students who are forced to leave the school as they are 'not capable enough'. And because it is useless to use some under-table method or bribe the school, one cannot continue staying in the school just by using petty tricks.

But it is precisely so, that the students are thoroughly trained.

Those who entered the school just due to its popularity will be quickly eliminated, and only those with true capabilities will survive. And amongst those students, many are from powerful families.

In another words, St Ririana Academy.

It is a elite school that filters out students using all sorts of methods, and thoroughly train and develop those who survived the filtering - that is how it is.

Well, I am about to be studying in that elite school, so to speak.

"Please do not show such a stiff expression, Onii-chan."

While stopping in front of the imposing gates of St. Ririana, my sister smiled.

"This place is neither the prison nor the juvenile detention center. It's just a

typical and normal place for teenagers to study at."

"Well, you can put it that way....."

While lifting my head to look at the school gate, which looked more like a castle gate, I mumbled.

"Even though the school I went to in Kyoto is considered a famous school as well, this academy is of a totally different level."

"Please pull yourself together. If you are saying such words now, what are you going to do a week later when the school starts?"

"I am not as capable as Akiko."

"Onii-chan had passed the academy's entrance test. Then there is nothing to worry about, right?"

Well, what she said make sense.

Just like I had said, there are no back-doors available at this school. The only key that opens the gates of this academy is purely your own abilities.

Well, if you are asking how I manage to pass the entrance exams with my average grades - I guess it is via something similar to special admission. I won't talk about it for now.

The main point is, to me, studying in this school is a really large burden.

To be direct, I am a lazy person.

In order to live with my sister again, I had put in quite a large amount of effort. To me, if it's possible, I really wish I won't have to go through those exhausting things again.

"Uwa. I really hate it. There is no choice but to put effort into studying."

"If it's Onii-chan then there will not be any problem. Even if there is, I'll help you personally."

"So my younger sister will teach me, huh. That's a really unpleasant scenario. Although my younger sister is the same age as I, since we are twins, I don't feel good about it."

"Oh really. Please don't act like a child who only complains. Indeed, I was the

one who suggested the idea of us studying in the same school, but Onii-chan agreed to it, no? If you are still hesitant about it, then you are not acting like a man."

That was totally true.

I cannot retort back at it.

Ultimately, my reason for going to school during the holidays was to take the opportunity to get myself familiarized with the academy. And I actually got my busy sister to bring me around, I'll be just too useless if I continued to stay here and procrastinate.

"It's alright, Onii-chan. Come come, don't be afraid."

My sister stepped past the gates while saying "come come".

..... Damn.

Am I a kid or something?

After taking almost all the credit for the whole house-moving incident, I originally thought I could at least maintain my dignity as an elder brother. Wasn't that all put to waste by this?

Arara, it is not necessary a good thing to have an overly capable younger sister.

Ever since we had been separated, my sister had treated my line, 'you must be a good girl', almost like the words of god. She had totally became a true lady and honor student. As someone whose looks and grades are both rather average, I still feel that I shouldn't be too different from my sister. At least not to the point where I am pulling her down.....

"It's alright, Onii-chan. All the students studying in this school are humans, just like us. Although the rumors outside did cause some misunderstanding."

"Urm, I am not too worried about that."

"However, there are a few whose very existence should be seen as a sort of danger. They are inhuman, and one should not seek to get himself related to them no matter what."

"..... Although I was initially not worried about that, now I am starting to worry about things I had never even thought of earlier."

What the heck was that?

There are people in this school who even my sister tries to avoid contact at all cost, and are existing rather normally.....?

"It's okay. You won't get eaten. Typically."

"..... According to what you had said, there are some occasions where people are eaten?"

"It's okay. The person to eat Onii-chan will only be me, because I had decided so ever since. Even if there is such a possibility, I will definitely protect Onii-chan. I will not allow anyone to snatch your love away from me, or for you to cheat on me."

"That is really dependable - although that is what I really wanted to say. Sadly, I am now experiencing a totally different uneasiness as compared to earlier."

"You just kept talking about all these meaningless stuff. Onii-chan, you just don't like entering this academy, right?"

"Yup."

"Ah that's enough. You are really a trouble-maker."

Even though she said that, my sister gave a light smile.

"However, it is really rare to see Onii-chan acting so spoiled. That was really cute, I love it the most." [TLNote: again, the same thing, 撒娇. In this case, it is more of Akito acting spoiled. I really wish there is an English word that can fully and correctly represent that term.]

"!? Wha-What sort of humiliation is this.....! Looking back at my life, had I been humiliated that badly by my sister!? No, never! Arg, damn, I was actually seen as such a useless man.....!"

Well, I was exaggerating slightly.

I had finally prepared myself mentally, and stepped into the school compounds.

Even though it is rather obvious, after stepping into the school, it felt like this was just like your typical school.

You will not get shot at suddenly, nor will you be warned by a stern voice that

says "abandon all hope, ye who enter here!". [TLNote: From Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri]

Still, this is an academy that had received countless donations. The school facilities had some Roman influences, which looked like a lot had been spent on them no matter how you look at it. But at the same time, they had managed to make it look not extravagant. It totally does not feel upstart, as though it was just highlighting the style of the elite school.

"Well then, I'll bring you to a few of the school's facilities. However, as the academy is rather huge, the places I can bring you to are quite limited."

"Mmm. I'll count on you then."

And so my sister guided me around the school, which was rather empty due to the spring holidays.

A sports complex that had the latest equipments.

A dojo that looked traditional and dignified.

A lecture theater that was as huge as a sporting arena.

A canteen that had kitchens similar to that of a grand hotel.

..... Arara. The high school I went to in Kyoto was no where as exaggerating as this. I had finally witnessed the grandness of this school.

It is a school that had over a hundred of years of tradition, and it had retained many old buildings that were listed as cultural relics. While protecting these things at the same time, they had imported plenty of modern-day technology as well, giving people the impression of their 'can do' attitude.

How should I put it.

To put it bluntly, as someone who is totally an ordinary person, being in this place is really uncomfortable.

"Well, we had roughly walked around the school once. What are your thoughts?"

"Yeah. To be honest, I am really scared."

"It's alright. You will get used to it soon."

"I will?"

"I had experienced exactly what Onii-chan is experiencing now a year ago. Indeed, when I first entered this school, I had personally seen a lot of things about this academy that made me take me by surprise. There is a rather strange and unique atmosphere here. Although it is rather hard to put it into words..... was I intimidated by its awe, or was it just a sense of pressure?"

"Oh. So you felt that way too."

"Yes. But I got used to it quickly. As such, things will be fine. Onii-chan will definitely adapt to it in no time."

..... That was what my sister said.

Well, I had heard sayings about how there were students that could not get used to this unique atmosphere, and ultimately dropped out of the academy.

And there are also rumors that the number of these students exceed by many folds, as compared to those that were eliminated by the promotion exams.

Arara.

Can I really keep up?

I had to work while catching up to the progress of the school's syllabus - I was starting to think that this is some troublesome matter beyond imagination. I am in trouble. Had I really made the wrong choice?

Forget it.

Even if I was like this, I am still the Akiko's elder brother.

No matter how scared I am, I definitely had no intention to give up without trying.

That is my most basic principle, as someone who forcefully made our house moving and living together possible.

If I was to explain it, it will be because I absolutely cannot do anything that will tarnish my sister's reputation.

"Onii-chan, as there are some things going on,"

"Hmm?"

"Regarding the plans for later-"

My sister gave an apologetic look.

"I am sorry, but I have to go to the student council for a while."

"Ahhh is that so. So it had reached this time already."

Well, I had already knew that this will happen.

I should say that even though I knew my sister had things to do, I still forced her to bring me around the school.

"No problems, just go. You don't have to mind me. I'll just walk around by myself later."

"Is that okay? Can you do it alone?"

"Oi oi. No matter how useless I am, I am still your elder brother. I am not a child, I can handle my own stuff by myself."

"If not, you can just wait for me outside of school. Since we are going back to our house sooner or later, why don't you just return home now?"

"Well, since I had deliberately came here, I might as well take a tour. If I do that, I will not feel uneasy when the school starts, right?"

"But Onii-chan, don't you hate entering this school by yourself?"

"Idiot. That was just something I said initially. Just like you had said, I had gotten used to the atmosphere really quick. There are no problems now."

"Ahh. If that is so, that will be for the best....."

"Alright, hurry up and go. If I am to waste your time, and get blamed by someone for 'dragging my sister down', that will be a much bigger problem for me."

Even so, my sister was still showing a worried expression. However, after a while, it became that of acceptance,

"Understood. Then off I go. I'll try to end it as early as possible, so let us meet later. At the canteen, is that fine? You can wait there while enjoying some tea."

"Mm, that sounds pretty good. Lets do just that."

"And there is another thing."

My sister gave me a serious look,

"I have to give an advice to Onii-chan, please try to follow it."

"Advice?"

"Yes. 'You are definitely not to get close to the students council room' - that is the advice that you must absolutely adhere to. Alright?"

"..... Is it because of that? Because of the students council's president?"

"That is part of the reason, but there are other reasons as well. In any case, please do not get close to the place."

"Well, why? Aren't you part of the students council as well?"

"In any case, no. Understand? If you absolutely have to see it, I'll find some day to show the place to you. So at least listen to me for today, alright?"

Urm... Hmm.

You are talking about my sister, someone who was not afraid of openly declaring herself as a bro-con, and interpreting shower-peeping as a valid and correct course of action. It is really something for her not wanting me to get near to what can be considered as her base, the students council's room.

Well, Nikaido Arashi - the predator that should not be overlooked - will be at the students council as well. I can understand the reason why my sister tried all her means to get me away from that place.

"..... O-K-. I'll listen to your advice. I will not get close to the students council's room for today. Let us agree on that."

"I am really grateful. I felt really relieved upon hearing that."

"It's nothing. Rest assured."

"Also, if you can give me a 'kiss before separation', I will feel even more relieved."

"The topic had strayed really far."

"If you can say to me 'You are the cutest girl in the world. I love you', I will feel even more relieved."

"You, you had absolutely no intention to get back on track, right?"

"..... You are not saying that to me?"

"No way."

"If you don't say it soon, won't I be late!"

"Oh. Here comes your favorite move - being angry due to shame."

"Or could Onii-chan actually find me not cute at all!?"

"Eh-? How can that be. You are cute. You are cute."

"Ahhh, there is totally no feelings in that! Onii-chan you are mean! You better be careful at night, alright!? I'll suddenly appear from the shadows, and snatch your lips away!"

Upon throwing that line at me, my sister hurriedly ran away.

It was probably that. Due to these stupid chat, it resulted in her really being late. That must be it.

My sister is really a fun person.

..... But to be honest.

Things had turned into me walking about the school by myself. Truthfully, it was slightly intimidating.

Ara.

This academy really had a unique atmosphere.

I had a really strong sense of feeling, that I am fighting on away grounds.

It is of a totally different level as compared to playing against your opponents at their home ground in football (soccer). If I were to really make a comparison - it is like me attending a funeral while expecting it to be a party due to me not listening carefully. That sort of level.

Well, it is definitely not like this academy is against outsiders. It just feels like there is an unspoken rule saying that all visitors are to be of a certain level if they wish to enter the school compounds.

For me, who was not that capable, it evoked my stubbornness.

..... I'll just let it be.

In any case, there was no turning back. I will just have to suck it up and get used to this atmosphere. Even if there is the question of whether I am capable of maintaining the grades required, I still have to do it.

"Well~ then. Where should I go?"

I started to walk aimlessly. At the very least, I should start by breathing in the air of this academy in big gulps.

There were not many students around as it was the holidays. Even so, the student population-density of this academy is definitely not low. One can see students concentrating on their club activities everywhere.

The reputation of an elite school is definitely not just for show. Aside from studies, students are expected to have excellent grades in sports as well. There seem to be very little students who only hole themselves in their rooms and study from reference books.

Excel in both studies and sports.

It sure was easy to say that, but to actually have to achieve that - it feels rather intimidating.

"Oh?"

Just when I was thinking of that, I had already entered the sports field.

It's huge. This place can easily hold a football and baseball match at the same time.

And to think that a sports field of such size actually exists in the area of Yamanote Line..... Ahh, I flinched upon thinking that. It just felt like the pressure I was experiencing had increased. I better start thinking about things that are beneficial towards my mental health. [TLNote: Yamanote Line is one of the lines in Tokyo, which means that the land the school resides on are probably extremely expensive]

Well, lets do just that. It just so happens that the female athletes team was training nearby. I will just take a look-

"It is really impressive of you to be staring at the girls frivolously in broad daylight."

"Eh?"

"But you are really unlucky. At this time, the athlete club members will only be wearing revealing sports attire when they are participating in competitions. Or could it be that you a person that is attracted to such ordinary tight-fit sports wear?"

I turned my head to take a look at the direction where the strangely dull voice came from.

"Ah!? It is you!"

In front of my eyes stood the girl whom I had many incidences with back at the shopping mall.

Golden hair and sapphire blue eyes, the beauty whom I felt was really elusive.

And today, she is dressed in the uniform of this school.

"So you are a student of this academy. What a coincidence."

"To add on, due to the strict rules of the council, the sports attire for the female athletes of this school can only be of navy color, and nothing else. This is really great, a school with rules that fits your perverted taste."

"In regards to the school's sports attire and sports wear and etc, I had never asked about them, and neither was I planning to. And even though it is slightly late, I wasn't staring at the girls frivolously, nor do I have a complex in tight-fitting sports wear."

"Oh really? What a pity. To think that I will actually planning to allow you to see me wearing a set of tight-fit sports jersey if you wished."

"....."

It was really hard to communicate with her.

"I had given you lots of trouble the other day."

"Eh? Ahh, you don't have to mind. I didn't do much."

"That's right. I am just saying it out of courtesy, so you don't really have to reply that seriously."

"....."

If I were to say it, it was probably this.

Could it be that this girl is at the peak of her rebellious stage.....?

"I am sorry. But as I had said before, I just feel pissed off at every single speech and action of yours."

"You are really a trouble maker."

"And truthfully, this personality of mine should make it very difficult for you to communicate with me, right?"

"It's great that you are at least aware of that."

"But regarding this, I hope you understand. A few days ago, I was in a state of extreme nervousness."

"Nervous?"

For a girl that will not change her expressions under any circumstances, can she be nervous?

"Even though it may be difficult for someone to understand, but that was indeed the case. On that day, I was so nervous I could not remember the things I had talked with you about."

"Oh. That is really, should I say surprising, or should I say that I was shocked?"

But whatever.

It did not take much to realize that the shopping complex was probably an unfamiliar place for this girl. She was totally unfamiliar with the surroundings, and thus had no idea what to do. Even though it was hard to imagine by her looks, she probably was very different back then compared to her usual self. Just like how I felt like I was on away grounds when I came to this academy.

Also, if I were to think deeper, her actions then was really weird. She was saying

things that a typical person wouldn't say to a total stranger without any reservations. If that was due to her talking nonsense out of nervousness, that will explain things.

"Understood. Honestly, I was harshly played around by you that day. If that is the reason then there was nothing we can do about it. I'll redo my impression of you today."

"It helps if you can say that. Ever since that day, I was feeling uneasy, whether I had left a bad impression on you. Even though I had no idea how you perceived me, but the real me is someone who is an introvert and shy. There were cases in the past where I had said things that I had no intention of saying, due to my nervousness."

"Ah- so that is how it is. Ara, I understand. Such situations can happen to anyone."

"So had I cleared your misunderstandings?"

"Yeah. It's clear now."

"Is that so. That's great. Then, please take care of me, from today onwards."

"Mm. Me too."

"Well then, can I ask you something?"

"Eh? What?"

"Are you a virgin?" [TLNote: 童貞, again, male term for virgin]

I nearly slipped and fell.

"- Didn't we go through that topic for quite a long while the last time!? How forgetful are you to have forgotten a conversation of such impact!?"

And also, 'someone who is an introvert and shy' will typically not talk about that, alright!

"I am sorry. I had forgotten everything we had talked about, as I was too nervous back then."

"Oh really, please go easy on me..... The things that happened then can be considered as a traumatic experience of mine. If possible I wish we will not

continue harping on it-

"Well, so are you a virgin or not?"

"Damn didn't I just say so?"

"Incidentally, I am a virgin as well."

"You had said that the last time!"

"Just right then, you had known a really personal information of mine, right? If that is the case, it is about time you tell me yours as well."

"And your forceful methods are still fresh in my mind!"

"....."

She became silent for a while.

She still had that blank expression, and she was looking elsewhere. After a short while, she slowly directed her sight back on me again,

"Sorry. What... did I just say?"

"..... You, are you having a youthful case of Alzheimer's?"

"Well then Virgin-kun. What are you doing here?"

"You are starting to stray off-topic again, while not allowing me to finish!"

Could it be that this girl was really being crazy?

Also, it seems like she had decided to treat me as a virgin huh. She should have forgotten about what we had said back then, and I hadn't answered her today.

Ah forget it.

It was a pain to correct her, and that is the truth anyway.

"..... Well, regarding that. Starting this spring, I will be studying at this academy. So I am came here in advance..... oh, I should say I am just looking around?"

"Is that so. That is why you are looking at the girls of the female athletes club. Thats so that you can imprint the supple bodies of young girls into your mind,

before eating them like vegetables."

"As a transfer student who wants to get used to the school's atmosphere as quickly as possible, why do I have to have a grudge against the female athletes club? You are wrong, it is not like that - if I am to say it, I just want to breathe in the air of this school as soon as possible, and quickly get used to this atmosphere and feel."

"Is that so. Which means that you are at the stage where you want to breathe in the air exhaled by the girls of the female athletes club? Your obsession is certainly commendable."

"..... What the heck? Are you trying to belittle me no matter what?"

"I am sorry. I can't help but to harass you a little upon seeing you."

I remember she had said the same things as well back then.

How strange.

Could it be I am emitting a smell that causes someone to wish to bully me no matter what? Well, certainly my height and weight are above average, and I looked ordinary as well. However, those things should not be enough for me to be harassed like this.

"Please don't worry. I am not air-headed to the point where I will criticize every single sexual preference of yours. Regarding your actions, I'll just close one eye and ignore it."

"..... Why does it feel like you had decided by yourself that my image is bad, without me knowing anything?"

"If you insist that you are innocent, then I hope you can show the relevant proofs."

"That is exactly what I wanted to say to you. Since you are treating me like I am guilty, please show me the proofs."

"Well, if you want me to acknowledge it....."

She totally ignored my point and said.

"If you are to lust after me, who is not wearing a tight-fit sports wear currently, then it is possible for me to acknowledge the fact that your sexual presences are ordinary."

"..... So you are attacking with another close-to-obscene move, huh."

"In short, we are talking about the point if you can use me as a material for your hand***."

"STO~~~~~P!"

There was really no choice but to yell that.

"I firmly oppose girls saying those sort of stuff!"

"In short, we are talking about the point if you can use me as a material to m*** l*** to yourself."

"Even if you are putting it in milder and ordinary terms, that is still a no!"

"Then you are violating my right to speak, aren't you? Regardless of 'hand***' or 'm***ing l*** to oneself', both are valid Japanese terms to express the act of mas*****ting. They are terms that does not require censorship on television programs. I feel that those are not terms that need you to object violently with that ghastly expression of yours."

"In any case, no! Denied! I will not allow you to act like that, absolutely not!"

"You are surprisingly stubborn."

Even though she said that, her expressions were still the same.

"Whatever. As I had no wish for you to do those things in front of me, I'll just treat your sexual preferences to be those like anyone else, for now."

"I really thank you for that..... Wait after saying that, I realized that you had not done anything that deserved my thanks, right?"

At least for now.

"Nothing of that sort. Didn't you personally see me saying such lewd terms like 'hand***' and 'm***ing l*** to oneself'? If it was anyone else, they would have wet themselves on the spot out of happiness. It was an absolutely lucky incident, alright? It's nothing weird for you to thank me for that."

"I am sorry, but those thing had no such effects on me."

Saying that those terms were lewd, so you were actually aware of that.

"Incidentally, it was the first time I was saying all those terms."

"Ehhhhh?"

"Honestly, it was so embarrassing that my face felt like it was burning. Although it was not shown through my expression."

"Is that so..... I thought you were someone to frequently say those things."

"How rude. No matter how incompetent I am, I am still someone with status. How can I do such shameless acts?"

"..... Well, going by your logic, it means that it is totally fine if you are to do such shameless acts to a stranger?"

"That can't be helped."

With that said, she gave a sigh.

"No matter where and what, it somehow turns into the situation where I want to harass you."

"That is really..... how should I put it..... really troublesome."

That applies to both me and her.

"Well it looks like we are really incompatible towards each other. Wouldn't it be better if we try to stay away from each other?"

"That will not do. You are a suspicious person who was pretending to be looking at the girls of the female athletes club, but behind that facade you are planning something. If I was to ignore you and not take any preventive measures, I will be made responsible should anything happens."

"I had said that it was a misunderstanding, okay."

"Therefore. If you wish to continue looking around the academy, then I shall follow along as well."

"Eh? You?"

Her sudden request took me by surprise.

"Which means to say you are willing to show me around this school?"

"Well, generally, yes."

"But is that okay? You actually came back on a school holiday, which means you had something on, right?"

"It is not like I have nothing to do, but the things here are of a higher priority."

"Hmmmmmm."

Even though it did not feel right to be taking up her time, her suggestion would fulfill my wish. If someone from this school was to guide me around, then it would probably soothe this feeling of being on away grounds. Actually, I should say that I want to lower my head and request her to do this.

"That will be a huge help. Well, can I request you to do that then?"

"It's not big deal, so you don't have to thank me. Ultimately, I am just fulfilling the role of a student of this school, and also-"

With that said, her typically blank face showed an intriguing expression (how shocking),

"I am reflecting on it."

"Reflecting?"

Reflecting on what?

Turning the innocent me into a pervert?

"Regarding the fact that I am hard to get along with."

"....."

That was really messy.

"I am really regretful about that. I am really really apologetic from the bottom of my heart. I am so serious, that I wish I can go back in time to the period where I was about to encounter you, so that I can start all over again."

"Ara..... that is a little to exaggerated, no?"

"That is not true. If I can fulfill that wish, I feel that it will be alright even if I am verbally abused by you."

"Hold on a second. Can you please not think of me as someone that wants to do that?"

"If I can fulfill that wish, I feel that I can accept it even if I am r*ped by you, and is forced to bear your child."

"Urg so I say. Can you please not continue on the topic with the thought that I will do those things to you?"

"And it is because I always liked to say such things, that caused our relationship to be messier and messier. I am well aware of that as well."

"..... At least you have some self-awareness on that."

Well, instead of saying that things get messier, it should be that I have no idea how to handle her, that is all.

"Forget the whole thing, let us not talk about that. Please guide me around the school."

"And that means you are willing to accept my preposition?"

"Mmm."

"..... Even though this idea was suggested by me."

She prepared a backdoor for herself by saying this,

"But is it alright? If you continue to mess around with me, you will be bewitched by me further and further. If you want to reject it, now is your chance."

"Well, I have some awareness regarding that..... But whatever. I am used to your behavior - although it is not till that stage yet, but generally I had understand your personality. I won't put it to mind, so please guide me."

"Is that so."

As she said that, she stared into the horizon.

Thanks to the great weather today, the broad sky was dyed bright blue. It was hard to imagine that this place is in Tokyo.

A gentle and warm breeze spread the smell of the blooming cherry blossoms.

It was as though she had blended into the art-like scenery.

"I understand. I shall lead the way."

Just that instance.

The tip of her mouth gave a slight smile, similar to that of a flower in full bloom
- or that was what it looked like.



..... Ehhhhhh.

Even though I had not seen anything remotely close to an expression on this girl's face.

That gently smiling face, isn't it beautiful beyond words?

Even when she was expressionless, she was already an exceptional beauty - however, that sort of beauty does make one flinch. Honestly speaking, I was slightly shocked. She turned into such a charming girl with just a slight smile.

How should I put it - she does have that sort of beauty normally..... but even so, I am still surprised. It was a perfect smile. If she can smile like that, it will be great if she can maintain that smile at normal times-

"What?"

Upon realizing that I was acting strange, she asked,

"You had been grinning for a while now, and it is really creepy. Are you imagining me being verbally abused by you, and enjoying yourself in secret?"

"..... So you still want to harp on that topic?"

"And you are planning to constantly think back on the scene, to use it to m*****bate, right? Your pervertedness had totally seeped into your bones, and it really makes one feel extremely creep out."

"That is why I had said, that is not the case."

"Forget it. I owe you that much, so I will endure most of the things that you will do to me."

"I don't think it is not possible, but could the thing you are owing me be referring to that? That you are giving me a hard time due to your troublesome personality?"

"Yes."

She really likes to dwell on that.

If you are already aware of it yourself, why don't you try to come up with some solutions?

"I say, I have no idea what you are thinking. However, I don't think you owe me anything because of that matter."

"I am really happy that you are saying that, but the key still lies in how I think about the matter."

"Just let it be? Even if you do owe me anything, didn't you agree to bring me around the school? That will write off everything."

"Can't do. Even though it does compensate for it a little, an act of that level is totally not enough for me to repay what I had owed you. Even if I have to endure the unpleasant smell that is coming off from your body, I will still have to repay back the debts that are left."

"Damn, why do you have to bring up that old gag!"

And you had dug out my psychological trauma with that line!

"Hold on a second. Regarding that, I shall prove my innocence, right here and now. With my reputation on the line."

"Go ahead."

"Firstly, I had bathe properly prior to coming out."

"That is commendable."

"And then, previously, it was at a shopping complex that had rather powerful heaters. However, as you can see, the weather is great today. We can remove the possibility of me giving a weird smell due to sweat."

"Indeed, the weather is fine. Neither hot nor cold, and the humidity is just right. Air circulation is great as the surroundings are very open."

"And a close friend of mine, who had known me for years, confirmed the fact. That person said that my body odor never did exceed that of the typical levels, after knowing me for so long."

"That person explicitly stated that? For someone who is neither your parents nor your other half, it takes courage to be talking about the smell of the other's body. You have a good friend. Please treasure him."

"Lastly. I did not eat garlic last night."

"Although garlic has a high nutritional content, it does leave behind a pungent smell. I believe that is a wise decision."

"And thus, upon hearing all these facts, I have to ask you."

"Go ahead."

"..... Do my body, really have a smell?"

"Yup. A very strong smell."

"WHY!?"

I felt like fainting.

"It's weird, alright!? I had actually rejected all possible causes, so where exactly on my body is that smell that makes you pissed being emitted from?"

"Even if you ask me that, I am quite disturbed as well. I had just met you twice, so how I can tell you such a private thing?"

"I cannot accept it! You have to tell me clearly the cause of the smell!"

"Now you had got me stumped. Ultimately, things like 'a smell that makes me pissed, that is hard to pinpoint', how should I describe it in words?"

"Is my body odor that unique and mysterious!?"

"If I have to say it no matter what..... Ah, you can put it this way - 'It is totally like the smell of garbage that is left to rot for a week under the summer sun'."

"What the heck..... The way you put it is overboard beyond words, to the point where I am drained of all my energy to even retort back!"

I had deliberately raised my voice in order to drown hers. In other words, 'this is a secret between you and me'.

"Do you want to know the origin of that smell?"

"Urg, judging from that tone of yours, could it be that you have an answer!?"

"That's right. I do think I had got it. Do you want to know?"

"I want to know! Do you have to ask!"

"Really?"

"There is nothing that I want to know more!"

"Do you swear that you will not change your mind?"

"Of course!"

"Is that so. Your determination had came through to me."

With that blank expression of hers,

"But sorry. Indeed, I cannot tell you the answer."

"Eh? Why?"

"I wish to continue harping on this topic for a while."

.....

"Are you angry?"

"..... No. Should I say that I am mad, or what?"

Was I stunned, or was I just drained of all my energy.

"You cannot tell me that? You should have enough fun keeping me in suspense."

"I am sorry. I understand what you are trying to say, but no matter what I just wish to keep dwelling on this subject. Please forgive me."

"No matter what?"

"No matter what. Even if I have to kneel in front of you."

"Even if you do that, I....."

"If not, I can remove my lingerie and give it to you on the spot, as my apology."

"Alright if we are going into that then please stop."

I stopped her immediately,

"I understand. Even though I don't know everything, I understand. If you do not feel like telling me, I will not force you. The only thing that I cannot accept is you not telling me despite hooking me and keeping me in suspense."

"I am really sorry. Please go along with my obstinance."

"No, forget it. Do not put it to heart."

That is my heartfelt truth.

Honestly speaking, typically it will not be strange for me to go mad in anger. But strangely, even though she treated me like that, I could not get angry at her.

Perhaps it was because I could not detect any hostility coming from her. That probably explains everything.

She is a really strange girl. I guess you can call that a talent of hers.

"In replacement, I wish to ask something else."

"Which is?"

"Can I know your reasons for wanting to dwell on this subject? I don't think it will matter if you let me know."

"There are three reasons."

She said.

"The first reason. Only if we are to dwell on the subject, will I be able to enjoy teasing you further. That is what I think."

"..... Forget it, I had roughly guessed that. Even so, that is a rather random reason."

"I am sorry. As my apology, please use the lingerie which I am about to remove from my body to-"

"No no no, you don't have to..... Well, the other reasons?"

"The second reason is, I wish to have at least one topic that I can talk with you."

"..... If it is conversation topics that you want, I think there are as many as you wish for, right? You don't have to be that reluctant to finish the topic. For example, we can start by talking about how I am not used to this academy, and many others."

"Theoretically yes, but that is something hard to do. I will get really nervous upon meeting you, which results in me only talking about that sort of weird stuff."

"Nervous? You?"

"Yes."

"Liar. You are totally not nervous?"

"I am really nervous right now."

"There is no change in your expressions, and your tone is rather calm as well."

"I am nervous in places where it cannot be seen."

"Hmm, what you had said is totally not convincing."

"If you cannot believe in it no matter what, then you will have to take home my lingerie that I had stripped off from my body."

"I have no idea why the topic went in that direction, nor do I have any idea your reason for doing so. In any case, I humbly decline."

"How strange. There should be many people who will risk their lives in order to get my lingerie. Are you saying you will just let the chance go without doing anything?"

"Please do not lump everyone's interest together..... And then? What is the third?"

"If it will be revealed sooner or later, I might as well wait for the moment where it has a greater impact upon revelation. That is what think."

"Urm, you don't have to think that far....."

"For me, it is important to sort out my feelings as well. Honestly, I had just realized it not too long ago. The true form of your smell."

"Hah?"

"And that's how it is. Can you accept it? The reasons I want to dwell on the subject of your smell."

"Even though I cannot accept them, I do know you have your difficulties as well. If it is you, you do not need any reason to do anything, as long as you go with your whims."

"How rude. If you continue slandering me without any basis, I will make you wear the lingerie that I removed off my body. Right here, right now."

She really loves to talk about that.

Could it be that she like that gag?

"Well, let us just put those aside for a moment. We had strayed too far, and had forgotten our real motive."

"Which is?"

"Shouldn't it be about time that you bring me around this academy?"

"Come to think of it, that is our original motive."

"That is right. It will be troublesome if you forget that."

"Well, I have to tell you a regrettable thing."

She suddenly changed her tone,

"Lots of time had passed while we are having this stupid talk. It is about time I go back."

"..... Uwa."

"Please do not look at me with that expression. If you do not want me to put on your head the lingerie I that I will remove off my body."

"Arara, I am someone who is doing the requesting. There was no reason for me to force you to do this anyway. But how should I put it, the time I had spent talking to you are treated as 'stupid talk'....."

"I am sorry. As I was too happy chatting with you, I had forgotten about the time."

"Ah-..... Forget it. If you put it that way, it makes it more difficult for me to ask for you to compensate me-"

"So what you are saying is you can accept that?"

"Ahhh damn! I should not have answered that honestly! Even though I had knew what sort of person you are!"

"That is Nasuhara Anastasia."

She said.

As usual, it came all of the sudden.

"Eh?"

"My name. Nasuhara Anastasia."

I reflexively shook her outstretched right hand.

"Please take good care of me."

"Ahh. mm. Please take care of me."

"You can just call me Anna."

"Ah, mm. Anna. I understand."

"Hmph. To call a girl a hole. You are a really impressive guy." [TLNote: Word play for 穴, あな(ana). Means a hole.]

"..... Can you please stop trying to trick me with your dangerous word play?"

"I shall go now."

With that said, she turned her body."

"Have a good day. May you enjoy your school life."

"Ah, mm. Thanks."

"And also- please be mentally prepared the next time we meet."

"What mentally prepared?"

"Well then, goodbye."

Ending off with that, Nasuhara Anastasia took a firm step, and left coolly.

Her golden hair swayed with her steps, as though the wheat at the fields being blown by the wind. Even though she was just walking, the scene looked as though it was from a famous work of art.

Ara.

What a gorgeous girl. It will be better if she was easier to communicate with.

Well, forget it. I had reaped lots of rewards too.

Even though the plan of taking a tour around the school was terminated, I had gained Nasuhara Anastasia as my friend. Being an average person who had entered into an elite school, my initial uneasiness was slightly quelled as well. If I am to fight on away grounds, it will be better even if I just know one more person.

Let us think deeper.

Nasuhara Anastasia from just now.

Students council's president Nikaido Arashi.

And my unworthy younger sister.

After knowing three people, the feeling of being on away grounds is no longer as strong as it used to be.

I cannot always be this timid.

I am still Akiko Himenokouji's elder brother after all.

Even if it is just to preserve the reputation of my sister, who had became really outstanding after the period of absence, I had no choice but to act as required in this school.

Alright.

My motivation had came.

Although I was not too used to this school, that was actually a good opportunity for me to do something huge. I will take care of everything, regardless of studies, or work, or housework. If I can't do that, the meaning behind my efforts in reuniting and living with my sister will.....

"Onii-chan. What are you doing?"

"..... Eh?"

I saw my sister upon turning my head.

"What is up, Akiko? Why are you here? Are you done with the work at the students council?"

"Yes. I am done with that long ago."

With that, she puffed up her cheeks,

"I had been waiting at the canteen for Onii-chan for a while, but couldn't see you coming. As such, I started to look for you. You should have explored the school enough, right?"

"Ah, is that so. So it is time already."

"Onii-chan is really overboard, to make his sister wait for such a long time."

"Sorry sorry. I am indeed wrong for this time."

"If you do really feel apologetic, please say 'I am really sorry for making the pretty and cute Akiko wait'."

"I am really sorry for making the pretty and cute Akiko wait. Ah, really sorry."

"..... Uh. Onii-chan is really honest today. Darn, if I knew that, I would have requested for more....."

"Oi. You are being greedy."

"Ehehe. But Onii-chan."

"What?"

"It feels slightly different from before. You were actually having a stiff expression just now. But now, it is as though you are rather relaxed. Have you gotten used to this school already?"

"Ah, yeah. That's right. That is roughly it."

Certainly.

As compared to when I first step into the school, my feelings now were totally different.

I am no longer intimidated. Even though I am still slightly uneasy, it was not at the point where I could not overcome it.

Was it because of that. Perhaps it was all due to her credit.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

While it may seem like I had wasted a lot of time with that girl, undeniably, I am certainly not nervous after going through all that mess. If I was to say why,

it is because I had to waste a lot of energy while talking to her. Should I say that I had totally no time to be nervous, or that I had to try my very best to keep up with her tempo, or risk lagging behind.

"And so that is how it was, Akiko. I had made a friend while I was walking around this school. After talking all sorts of things with that person, I became relaxed unconsciously."

"..... Ugh. From your tone, the person should be a girl."

"That is right."

"Uuuuuuuuugh"

My sister pout her lips and showed an expression, as if she would throw a fit.

"Well, forget it. It is part of the requirements of a cute younger sister to forgive this level of unfaithfulness."

"What do you mean by unfaithful?"

"No matter what, it is great that you had got used to the school. It was worth it to come to the school even though it is the holidays."

"Mmm, that is right. Thank you Akiko, for requesting you to accompany me even though you were busy."

"That is nothing. If Onii-chan wants it, I will do all sorts of things for you. However....."

"Hmm? What?"

"Onii-chan. Did anything happen during the period when we were separated?"

"Eh? What are you referring to?"

"Nothing. Even though I am not too sure of it..... But Onii-chan's body is giving out that hateful smell again."

"Ugh."

Why.

Even my sister had said the same thing as that golden-haired beauty.....?

And why were things developing exactly like how it did back at the shopping mall?

"..... Onii-chan. Right now, I had a really ominous feeling."

With that said, my sister got close to me while frowning,

"The girl whom Onii-chan got close to. What sort of person is she?"

"Eh? Uhhh- hmm, how should I put it?"

That was a really difficult question to answer.

What sort of phrases should I use to describe Nasuhara Anastasia?

Expressionless and speaking in a dull tone. Likes to say random stuff, and even find all sorts of reasons to harass me- it is hard to use words to describe this type of people.

However, she is still considered to be my savior, so I could not be talking bad about her. Also, I did not dislike her at all.

"Her smile."

Which was why.

I had decided to say her biggest strength.

"She is a girl with a great smile. Really really good."

"..... Uhhh. Great smile, that's how it is huh. Then I must be thinking too much."

"? Even though I am not too sure of what you are talking about, but is that so?"

"Yes. It looks like my ominous feelings are unfounded. How could that person have smiled? Ignoring that for a moment, Onii-chan. Just right then, something worse had happened."

"Hmm? What thing?"

"I had never heard Onii-chan praising me with anything similar to having 'a great smile'."

"Oh. Is that so?"

"Yes. You had never said that."

My sister seemed furious,

"If you can say that about a girl whom I had never even seen once, why can't you say that to your cute little sister? This is a serious crime. If this is a world of sis-con, this crime will be punished severely."

"That is a little exaggerated."

"As such, I wish you can say 'Akiko had a great smile too' properly once."

"? What are you talking about?"

I tilted my head and said.

"Isn't that unnecessary? The fact that Akiko's smile is really beautiful, do I even have to say it deliberately? To me, your smile is the smile that I loved the most in this world."

"..... Fuwa..."

My sister suddenly collapsed.

"Oi Akiko!? What is wrong with you!?"

"T-That is too destructive....."

"How are you feeling now!? Why is your nose bleeding!?"

"I-It's alright..... It's fine."

My sister stopped me from carrying her up, and stood up while pinching her nose.

"Is it anemia? Or are you having a heat-stroke? While during early spring?"

"No, it is nothing. It will be fine after a while. Really, Onii-chan will occasionally do such dense things. I cannot be careless at all....."

"Eh? What are you talking about?"

"Nothing. In any case, my wish had been fulfilled. I am absolutely satisfied now."

After wiping away the blood from her nose, my sister said, with her face red (the cause of her red face is not her blood),

"So currently, I am in an extremely good mood. I'll cook whatever Onii-chan wants to eat for today."

"Oh, I am really thankful for that. Is it really alright? Your nose bleeding?"

"Absolutely no problem. The bleeding and whatever will be stopped quickly. It was just my blood platelets going wild. Let us not talk about that, do you have anything that you want to eat? Anything is fine."

"Well if that is the case-"

There was really a lot of blood from her nose,

"How about stir-fried cow's liver?"

"Stir-fried cow's liver? That is no big deal!"

My sister repeatedly nodded her head, and gave a perfect smile.

-Hmm.

There was indeed no mistaking it.

The smile of my sister is the world's number one. No matter what others may say, but for me, this is a truth that needs no confirmation. It is even more absolute and undeniable than $1+1=2$. Even if she had finally confirmed this thing, there should not be a need for her to be this happy, right?

Whatever.

There was nothing better than my sister being happy.

"Well then. Shouldn't we get moving?"

"Yes! Let us visit the supermarket before we go back!"

And those were the things that happened.

The trip for me to experience St. Ririana had generally ended peacefully.

Chapter 7: 6th April (The thirteenth day of living together - One day before the opening ceremony)

"That Nasuhara - could it be that? I say, could she be the daughter of Nasuhara Industries?"

Two days later.

After telling that person the incidents that happened during the earlier school visit, Ginbee said that.

"Hmmm? Nasuhara Industries? Really?"

"The name Nasuhara is not common. And since she is a student of a royalty school, the possibility is even greater. According to what you had said, Lady Anastasia obviously had a celebrity feel about her, that is what you had said."
[TLNote: Ginbee uses the honorific of "嬢", or "Lady".]

"Ah, mm. Indeed."

But it's actually that Nasuhara Industries. Ranging from spaceships, to the screws of the doorknobs, to nearly everything - it is a monstrous enterprise that ships industrial products worldwide.

"If that is really the case, then Akito, you had obtained a really good friend prior to you entering the school. What good luck you have."

"Yeah. Even so, that is not confirmed for now."

"Even if she is not the daughter of a huge enterprise with a long history, I still think the person you met is a really interesting girl."

"Well..... yeah. I do feel that she is a girl who will not make it boring for others."

And also a girl who is extremely troublesome.

"Rather than creating more enemies, it will be better if you win more people to your side, and that is even more important for your situation right now. The act of you living together with your sister is built upon the delicate balance of power among many factors. It is something that is extremely unstable, so I hope you are more self-aware in that matter. Also, the number of your people on your side is really few - aside from your blood-related sister, there is only me."

"Mm. Well, I suppose it is."

"If it's Lady Anastasia, she will definitely be a trustworthy ally as long as you get along with her. Since it is fate for you two to meet, you must treasure that. Not just her, but the students council president we had talked about some time ago

as well."

"Nikaido-senpai? Well, it is definitely possible for her to stand on my side, but..... instead of being the trustworthy type, she is more of the dangerous type of person."

"If you can control a toxic substance well, it can be used a medicine. But if you fail, it will be a lethal poison. Upon knowing this fact, only an exceptional man can accept good and evil at the same time, and filter them accordingly. You must take advantage of every single thing that can be of use to you."

"Arara, theoretically that is how it is. However, that person will definitely not make it easy for me. If I strike carelessly. the only one to suffer will be me. I feel that the end result will be me getting countered by her."

"Arara. I wish that you will not say that, being someone who had tricked countless people to get into the position you are at today."

Fuuu, came the sigh of the person through the phone.

After a while,

"Akito, do you have no intention of ending your current lifestyle?"

"Eh?"

"You are a very important person to me. That's why I accepted and helped you in your endeavors. If necessary, I will even give you some suggestions as well. I will try my best to respect your decision in doing all of this, since you were extremely determined about it. As such, I do not wish to say this if possible - but it looks like I have reached my limit."

What was going on here? Typically, Ginbee's voice have always had a touch of ridicule in it, or rather, it felt like he had always been looking down on me slightly. However, the voice now brought about a sense of seriousness that I have never heard of before.

"Akito. This is my final advise. It is better for you to not continue with your lifestyle. Honestly speaking, a person like you is not suited for a life like that. The way of living that precariously balances all the useful and harmful relationships, and managing them as though you are walking on a tightrope."

"....."

"From my view, living a life of farming spinach at some village seems to be something more suitable for your original personality. I think your misfortunes started from the moment the Takanomiya adopted you..... It's still not too late for you to fix the path of your life, even though you had already strayed from it. You are well aware of that, aren't you? As to the fact of what you are suitable at doing."

"..... Yeah, I cannot rebut that. That is how it is."

"Come back, Akito. You can still barely make it of you do so now. Leave your sister's life to the Arisugawa, while you can just go back to depending on the Takanomiya like you used to. Even though there will be a lot of troublesome things, the rewards will definitely not be lacking as well. It is not like the Arisugawa or the Takanomiya families are going after you siblings' lives."

"And you are right. Or should I say that it would actually be the best for us."

"Being restricted from living together or communicating with your relative; it must have been painful for the both of you. You siblings must definitely have yearned to reacquire the relationship between the both of you. But the thirst for that should have been satisfied to a certain degree during this period of time where you have both lived together. The Takanomiya and Arisugawa families should be reconsidering the way they had treated you siblings as a result of this incident. You will definitely get some results towards improving their treatment of the both of you if you negotiate. Although it will still be impossible to change the fact that you siblings will be separated again..... it will definitely be better as compared to the past, where you had no rooms for negotiation."

"And maybe things will really go that way."

"Even though I think you had already known; just to reiterate, I am not saying all of this to you under the request of the Takanomiya or Arisugawa."

"I know that Gin. Indeed, it is something that you do not have to tell me."

"Thus, let me ask you again."

A slight pause.

"Akito. Do you have no intention of giving up your current life, and returning here again?"

"Nope."

I answered without even thinking.

"I have no intention of giving up my current lifestyle, and I had never thought of going back there either. Just as you said, I had put in a great deal of determination before I did this. After coming so far, how can I possibly abort or surrender? As for my right to live with my most important family member, even though I may be unable to prevent it from being taken away by someone, I have absolutely no intention of easily losing my grip on it either. To be separated from my younger sister just to cater to the wish of people who aren't even my relatives, is something I don't ever wish to do again. Even if I am to be involved in some troublesome things to protect this right, I will do all I can to smash through all the obstacles before of me. And then, I'll be doing everything I can to maintain my rights. Gin, I do feel that your advice is sound, and if we are to swap positions, I'll probably be saying the same thing to you as well. However,

this is the only thing that I can never abide to."

"No matter what, you will not listen?"

"No matter what, I will not."

"Even though you had succeeded this time, your methods were rather forceful, and there should be better ways to accomplish your goals. It's not like there are no alternatives about doing this that will please everyone, although it will take slightly more time. Even if you have took a difficult path, there is still time for you to deploy better methods - despite knowing all this, are you still not going to listen to me?"

"Just give up, Gin. For this matter alone, I want to do as I wish."

"..... Is that so."

With that, my friend became silent for a while.

"Gin."

"..... Yes?"

"Are you angry?"

"Why do you think that?"

"Well. It's because you are not saying anything."

"Don't worry. I am just trying my best not to laugh."

"Ah-..... Ugh, that's great. No matter what, you are the one person in this world whom I do not want to piss off the most."

"If that is really what you think, please remind yourself that when you are dealing with me in the future, alright..... In any case, it's fine. Indeed, I am stunned by how stubborn you are, but I am not angry at you. Your answers are within my expectations, but I thought it was worth asking."

"? What do you mean?"

"If you are moved even the slightest by my suggestions, I would be going all out trying to talk you into giving up. To give up that life of yours that lacks any plans."

"..... Oh."

This person must have planned to do just that.

Sawatari Ginbee Haruomi is just that type of person. And I think a really serious Ginbee would have succeeded.

"I am glad that you're a man who follows through with his actions. That is how a man whom I approved should act."

"What? Are you trying to lick my boots again? That method will no longer work, you know?"

"Even if you say that, I still know you are probably blushing and looking away, despite me being separated away from you through the phone-lines."

"You are irritating."

"Kuku..... In any case, I am relieved. If your will is that strong, then there should be no problem. Even if there are many obstacles waiting for you in the future, I believe that Akito will definitely get past them all."

"That sounds very optimistic from you, considering your personality. Honestly, I am not able to see that far into the future."

"No. It will definitely be fine."

With a rather intriguing tone of faith, my friend made the following conclusion.

"Well we shall meet again, Akito. I'll be visiting you some time soon. Take care."

"..... Arara."

I was still at that apartment inside the shabby seventy-plus years-old building.

After having that talk with my friend over the phone, I took a huge sigh and laid on the tatami.

"Gin's mood, seems to be slightly better.....?"

Sawatari Ginbee Haruomi, a person who is always giving a light smile while tilting the body sideways. Even as an old acquaintance, I have not seen that person flustered before.

But precisely because I am an old acquaintance, I know.

Despite the voice and tone remaining as they were..... ever since I had moved, Gin's fury had always been immeasurable.

In reality, GInbee had said the same thing as well.

Although GInbee had answered my questions, and have further responded to my calls for help.

But that does not mean Ginbee's anger have subsided.

It is purely due to the fact that Sawatari Ginbee Haruomi is a person who can control those feelings and actions calmly, while finding the perfect solution at the very moment.

Generally, I am inferior to Ginbee in everything - and this is the only thing that can cause that person to nag.

Calmer than anyone, but at the same time, more passionate than anyone as well.

I am concerned about it, precisely because GInbee is like this.

How long will it take before Ginbee's feelings can return to normal?

What can I do to make it return to normal?

The current me have way too many things to worry about. But the thing that concerned me the most was the course of action that my friend will take. I have no idea why.

Ginbee is someone who does things that are way out of my expectations.

I had to keep my plans a secret no matter what, and that made me lost all my credibility as a friend. However, despite all that, Ginbee had already expressed forgiveness. Even so, borrowing the words of that person, 'being angry at someone and forgiving him are two separate matters'.

Uhhh..... Well.

I did think about showing up at Ginbee's house some time later, with that person's favorite cake as a form of apology. Or maybe I should be delivering the cake as quickly as possible. I don't think Ginbee will like it if I am being too blatant in my attempts to please, but that was about the only thing I could do at the moment-

"Onii-chan. Are you done with the phone call?"

Ah.

Just then, my sister said that.

From the room next door, came her voice.

She had temporarily left me alone after considering that fact that I was talking to someone over the phone.

"Ahhh sorry. You can come in now."

I said that while lying on the tatami.

I did know it is indecent to do that, but I felt really tired after talking to my

friend.

The Takanomiya will not let things slide if I did that at their place, but right now there is only one family member around. Please let me off the hook this time around.

"!"

I reflexively bounced back up.

That was because, in front of the opened door, was my sister sitting down elegantly. She was dressed in a kimono, which was rare of her.

"__"

Just like that, she silently bowed to me.

sa sa sa. She moved forward while kneeling down, and got past the door frame. She silently closed the door.

After getting next to me, she bowed again.

"..... What is wrong? Why are you dressed like this all of the sudden?"

"Are you shocked?"

My sister lifted her head and stuck out her tongue. I said,

"Of course I am. This is really surprising. Didn't you leave your kimonos and stuff with the Arisugawa family?"

"Mmm, that was what I had originally planned. Shouko-san however said 'at the very least, take this with you', and forcefully pushed this piece of kimono onto me without listening to anything that I had said."

"Oh. Is that so?"

Come to think of it, this is the first time I had seen my sister dressed in such splendid attire. Up until six years ago, I had only seen my sister in a kimono during the Doll Festivals.

"Isn't that great? It suits you a lot."

"Ehehe. Thank you."

"..... Well then? I now know where this kimono came from, but why are you wearing it?"

"This is the so called 'starting things formally'. It is so that my thoughts and feelings can be conveyed to you as clearly as I can."

"Huh?"

"Tomorrow is the school's opening ceremony. I thought that this will be a good opportunity..... No matter what, if I am to delay this indefinitely, I may never get to convey my feelings until I die."

While saying that.

My sister placed her three fingers of both hands on the ground, lowered her head, and did a standard bow.



"Onii-chan. I am really thankful to you for the things that had happened. As your younger sister- no, before that, as a person. I give you my heartfelt gratitude."

"..... What is with that?"

I was shocked by her smooth white neck that had been exposed through the hem of her kimono.

I tried to hide it by letting out a bitter smile, and said the following while keeping my voice as calm as possible.

"What a weird person. I was thinking of a reason for you to be dressed like that, as to why you are acting so formal. What is going on here? What are you thanking me for?"

"For taking me away from the Arisugawa family. For living together with me like this. For bringing me up like a parent- things like that."

"Ahaha. So it is those things?"

I smiled lightly at my sister, who was still lowering her head deeply,

"That is something I should be doing, no? You don't have to thank me. You are my younger sister, and my only family in this whole world."

"Even if we are relatives, I still can't accept Onii-chan's grace unconditionally. Moreover, the things Onii-chan had done for me were so very tough..... No matter how incompetent I am, I am still someone who had lived with the Arisugawa family for so long. How can I not understand that?"

"Come on, lift up your head."

"No. We have been living together for thirteen days, and up till today I was not able to properly convey my thanks. I will not lift up my head, until my gratitude has been properly conveyed to you."

..... Arara.

I silently sighed.

I could do nothing. If that was how it is, then I had no choice but to go along with my sister.

However, as compared to me finally reuniting with her after six years, I actually felt like I had to made her wait for six long years before we can be together again. Considering that, it should be me who had let her down. It looks like me and my sister had interpreted this incident rather differently.

"..... And also. Actually..."

The end of that line was slightly shaky, as though my sister was trying to force the words out from her throat.

"I have no choice but to apologize to Onii-chan."

"Apologize, meaning what?"

"I had doubted Onii-chan before."

"Doubted me?"

"Yes. Six years ago, when we were separated, Onii-chan had said that to me, right? 'One day, I will make you return back to my side, so trust me and be a good girl', that was what you had told me."

"Yup, I did said that."

"Of course, initially, I had never doubted it. As long as it was Onii-chan who had said it, there will be no problems, and he will definitely come to pick me up real soon. That was what I believed in."

It was not just the sentences.

Upon closer look, my sister's slim shoulders.

They were trembling slightly, like a child that was frightened by lightning.

"But one month had passed, half a year had passed, a year had passed. After that, it became two years, three years, four years. At then, I was no longer a child, and I could already differentiate if the things can be done or not. I had gradually came to understand what sort of place the Arisugawa and Takanomiya families are. Forget about Onii-chan coming to take me away or seeing me, I could not even write a proper letter to you."

"....."

"Initially, I only thought about Onii-chan every single day. However, unknown to me, there were days where I began to not think about Onii-chan anymore. When I thought of Onii-chan, it felt like my blood flowed in the reverse direction - I was anxious, and I could not endure it. To add on to that, even though Kiyotsugu-san and Shouko-san were strict, they were very nice to me. As such, I slowly started to feel like it would be alright to become one of the Arisugawa, and it did not really matter anymore if I could see Onii-chan again. But I absolutely hated myself for thinking that way, I w-was really, r-really uneasy and scared."

"Akiko."

"Yes?"

"Are you crying?"

"I am not crying."

Came the sound of a sniff.

The sound of her sniveling.

"Isn't this crying?"

"I am not crying!"

"They are already of the past. All these things."

Towards my respectful sister, I said slowly and clearly.

"All of our problems have not been settled for now. However, you are here now, and so am I. That is everything that matters, no matter what had happened along the way. Don't you think so too?"

"Yes. Even though I think the same-"

"And also, if Akiko is to apologize to me, then I have no choice but to apologize as well."

"Eh?"

My sister lifted her head in shock, then hurriedly lowered it down again.

"Why?"

"There was a period of time when I felt uneasy as well. Whether you were really waiting for me. Due to the rare letters being checked through thoroughly, I had absolutely no way of confirming Akiko's thoughts. Even though I had spent six years to prepare to get you back, I had no way of knowing how you felt. Is Akiko still waiting for me? Will I be troubling you if I am to get you back? Could Akiko have already started her life anew as someone from the Arisugawa family, thus having no need for me to reappear back into her life? And so on."

"How could that be! How can there be such a thing!"

My sister lifted her head and shouted emotionally.

But she quickly said "Ah", and lowered her head again.

"Onii-chan. I had always believed that there will be one day, where Onii-chan will come to take me back. Even if I was treated rather strictly, despite me having to do lots of training, no matter how tough homework was, and so on. It was precisely because I thought to myself, that Onii-chan will watch me from somewhere afar, that allowed me to persevere. Because one day, I will have to let Onii-chan see the fruits of my hard work - proving that I had followed Onii-chan's words."

"Mm. Is that so?"

"Onii-chan. Did I follow our agreement? Did I, as Onii-chan had said, become a good girl...?"

I nodded my head without hesitation.

"You had indeed fulfilled my words. You had followed our agreement, and became a good girl."

"Really.....?"

"That's how I really feel. From the bottom of my heart, without any reservations. And also, I thought that the current you is someone whom I am really proud of. Even more so than in the past. And also-

"Also?"

"You had became much prettier, compared to the past."

po

It was as though I heard that.

"W-W-Wha"

She was so surprised that even her ears were dyed red. She maintained the position of her three fingers of each hand on the ground, and began muttering.

"What are you saying!?"

"Eh?"

I really did not know the reason for her to lose control.

"What do you mean by 'what'? You had always requested me to tell you just that, right? 'Please praise my beauty' or 'please praise me for being cute', and so on."

"W-Well you are not wrong!"

"And in reality, I do feel like you had became much prettier. So much more prettier compared to six years ago..... Ah- So it is like this, could it be that Akiko does not feel that way?"

"No! Nothing of that sort! In anticipation for the day when I reunite with Onii-chan, I had never once slacked!"

"Well, isn't that it? Just accept my praise."

"E-Even though I am really happy..... but that surprise attack was too sly!"

What a difficult person to handle.

"Forget it, in any case that is how it is. It is about time you raised your head up, right?"

"I can't raise it up yet!"

"What is wrong? You still can't accept it? I had already listened to your thanks or your apologies? Are you still not satisfied?"

"No. Regarding that, I am satisfied."

"Then what is the problem? Why can't you raise your head?"

"O-Obviously because I am embarrassed!"

My sister's voice was close to a lament.

"Even without a mirror, I had already know that my face is bright red, and I am giving a smile that will make others feel uncomfortable - I cannot let anyone see me in such a state. If it is Onii-chan, I will rather die than to let you see it."

"That does not matter. Right now, we are the only family of each other. 'There should be nothing between siblings' and stuff, you had been saying that, right? With you saying that, are you still trying to hide from me?"

"T-That is a separate matter altoge-"

"I really wish to see it. The expression you have currently."

"..... Uuhhhhhh~~~~~"

While looking downwards, she let out a cry of regret.

Timidly and slowly, my sister lifted her head.

"....."

Her eyebrows were that of the kanji '八', and she was biting her lips. As though she was a child waiting to be spanked.

Her face was as red as she had said. Not just the tip of her ears, but even her neck was flushed red.

'Even if I was to suffocate, I will never come into eye contact with you' - as though she was saying that, her eyes wandered around.

- Ahhhh.

So it is like this.

Indeed, this is it.

"I say, Akiko."

"Y-Yes....."

"You are extremely cute. In my eyes, you are the cutest girl in this world."

ba-tan

Kyu

She seemed to had given out sounds similar to these onomatopoeia.

My sister had collapsed.

"Akiko?"

"....."

"Oi~. Akiko~. Oi~."

"....."

No response. She was totally like a corpse.

"There is nothing I can do with you....."

Could it be that she had entered Nirvana due to her embarrassment?

Forget it.

It was clear after looking at her red skin, which made one wonder if she was trying to test the human limits - her current expression now must be even more exaggerated than compared to that previously. She herself must have wished to continue lying face down like this, so as not to let me see her face.

Even so, I will have to repent as well.

I had teased her a little too much just now. That will not do.

"..... Well, it was rare for Akiko to show me that cute side of hers. If I do nothing, that will be rude..... probably?"

It was not directed at anyone. I was just mumbling to myself.

Thus, I had decided once again to take a good look at my sister, who was emitting steam with a "pushu" sound - as though like from a manga.

I thought to myself, that I would probably be forgiven, if it was only to this level.

Chapter 8: 7th April (The fourteenth day of living together - The day of opening ceremony)

Well then.

Should I say 'finally', or should I say 'it is about time'.

I had been anticipating this day for a long time, but on the other hand, I do not really wish for the day to come. It had finally arrived.

St. Ririana Academy. Today brings about the opening ceremony.

"..... Uh- Mmm."

I was standing in front of a fallen mirror that lays at the entrance of the shabby building which had been built for over seventy years.

Ever since just now, I had been scrutinizing myself.

"I don't know why, but I just feel like checking over and over again. Does this suit me?"

I twisted my neck, and rotated my body leftwards by half a circle.

And then, I rotated my body rightwards by a full circle.

After checking every single corner of my body, I gave a light sigh.

"This won't do. No matter what, it somehow feels wrong..... I had never worn such clothes before."

The male uniform of St. Ririana Academy is the nostalgic olden-styled students' uniform. Although the uniform has a vigorous feel due to the thick cloths that are used, it would depend on the person wearing it as well.

Which means that for someone like me, whose height and weight are just average, it seems a little too forced on me.

No, in fact, I could already confirm it.

This uniform totally does not suit me.

I had been totally worn by the uniform instead.

Ah- damn, what a failure.

If I had known that earlier, I should have worn it a few times prior to today. If only I had worn the uniform normally..... Well, isn't it the same for graduates who are looking for jobs? One must look like he 'had gotten used wearing' suits, so that the interviewers can accept him more easily.

Uh- Yeah. I am in trouble.

That is because St. Ririana is a famous royalty school.

It is a place of learning that has gathered lots of rich people.

Also, my sister is the secretary of the students council as well. She is obviously a student of stature.

As her older brother, I can not allow others to see me in such an embarrassing state.

Well, I had already known it ever since I was brought into the Takanomiya family..... But those people of the upper class, they really do place a lot of emphasis on their face. If my actions had brought about any negative evaluation, then I will affect the reputation of my sister as well. [TLNote: When he say "face", he's talking about the social concept of respectability or image originated from Eastern cultures. He isn't talking about a face literally.]

Even though the chances of me worsening her position are unlikely, I have to do my best to destroy such possibilities.

"Oi, Akiko~"

As such, I summoned her over.

I wished to know if such incongruity is within allowable range. Please help me to judge on that.

"Akiko~? Oi. Come over here."

"....."

"Akiko~?"

I had shouted a few lines at my sister's room. But it looks like there was no response.

"Oi. Hurry up. There is not much time left. I know you are slightly rushing as well, but this will just take a while."

"....."

Still no response.

That was weird. Typically, she would have rushed to my side upon me calling her, even if she was slightly busy. Could she be really busy with her preparations as well?

..... Just when I was thinking of such pointless stuff with my head tilted.

"..... Onii-chan."

From the door came her voice. A voice that was as soft as the buzzing of a mosquito.

"Actually, I had been hiding something from Onii-chan for a while."

"Eh?"

Her words that came out of nowhere confused me.

"What is it that you had been hiding from me? Do you really have to tell me that now? We are a little tight on time."

"It will be revealed sooner or later anyway."

My sister said that. Her voice sounded like she had been forced into a corner, and had no choice but to give up.

"Even though I already knew this would be exposed sooner or later..... I still dragged it on until now. If you wish to laugh at Akiko for being useless, then please do."

"Well, I have no idea what you are talking about."

"Something important. Very, very important."

What could that be?

I suddenly felt uneasy.

It had always turned out to be my sister making a mountain out of a molehill. But even so, I could not stay calm after hearing her saying such things in a serious tone.

"Oi oi. Don't scare me. Just as you had seen, I am very timid. The way you are acting is not good for my heart."

"I am really sorry. But I had put in a lot of determination before deciding to tell you about it. Please forgive me."

"..... I understand."

She probably felt really nervous.

My sister appeared from her room, dressed in her uniform- just when I was thinking of that, she dodged back into her room again, like a prey that had seen its predator.

"Akiko?"

"..... Urm, Onii-chan?"

"Yes?"

"..... You won't laugh at me?"

"Eh? Laugh at you? Why?"

"Nothing. In any case, can you promise that you will not laugh at me?"

"Ahhh..... well of course."

What was that about? 'Don't laugh at me', what does it refer to?

What had she planned to come clean to me?

"You promised, alright.....?"

With a scared voice, as though she was praying.

And she timidly reappeared again.



".....?"

Eh?

Huh?

Why was she feeling so insecure?

There was nothing strange about it, and I could find nothing to laugh at.

If I had to say it, it was just my sister wearing a pair of spectacles, and had her fringes combed upwards, that is all- but it could not have been it, right? Well, indeed, that was the first time I had seen her in glasses, but that shouldn't be it, right.....?

"I-I know that this attire doesn't suit me at all."

With her face flushed red, she turned her sight elsewhere.

It looked like she felt terrible, and was twisting her body about,

"If possible, I wished to keep you in the dark forever. However, everyone at school knows that I wear glasses, and I can no longer hide it no matter what."

"....."

Damn, so it really about that!

"Akiko."

"Uh... Huh?"

"Are you short-sighted?"

"Yes. My vision had worsened during this period of time....."

She gave a look of extreme sadness.

"Actually, the degrees of this pair of glasses are already on the low side, but if I use a thicker pair of glasses, it will look even weirder, and thus this is the limit."

"....."

"Urm, I am sorry. That promise just now must have been really unreasonable."

Anyone would have felt like laughing after seeing such a strange sight..... I am sorry, Onii-chan. If you wish to laugh, please go ahead. It must be really painful for you to endure the laughter....."

"Ah. I say."

I corrected my sister, who was saying such things with a self-deprecating smile.

"Well, it is totally not weird. I should say that it suits you rather well?"

"You are lying!"

She looked at me with tears in her eyes.

"Please, do not try to hide it by saying those words. I am actually wearing such an unnatural thing on my face, and yet you are insisting that it does not look weird..... How can that be possible?"

How rude.

Apologize to all the meganekko-lovers in this country, right now. [TLNote: めがねっ娘 (meganekko), girls wearing glasses]

"If you hate glasses that much, why don't you just wear contacts instead?"

"To put a foreign object into your eye, I can't possibly do such a scary thing."

"Come to think of it, you had never wore glasses in front of me. I had to hand it to you, to be able to live like that. It must have been tough, right?"

"In order not to let Onii-chan know, I had worked hard for a while. For example, I had been practicing to pretend to see things that I cannot see clearly in reality."

"That is indeed some rather pointless practice..... Putting that aside, take a look at my uniform. I felt like it was rather unsuitable for me. It's such a pain. What should I do?"

"? There is nothing of that sort? It fits wonderfully."

"Really? But I don't feel so myself....."

"This is a really stupid question. Because, no matter what Onii-chan wears, it will definitely suit him."

"....."

Uhhh- Hmm.

It looks like if I wish to discuss about such stuff, I should not find my sister, who has a huge brother complex, to discuss about it. Also, we both are very different in our definition of beauty.

"Forget it, lets put that aside. I still feel that it's really cute, your looks with those glasses."

"Don't say it anymore, Onii-chan. I have already given up on this. Even if the Onii-chan whom I love deeply praises me for being 'cute', I am still not able to be happy about it wholeheartedly..... I am sorry, since Onii-chan had put my feelings into consideration and consoled me."

"No, that is my heartfelt truth."

"In any case, I will not wear glasses while being with Onii-chan. If so, will you forgive me for being ugly, due to me having myopia?"

"I say, isn't that dangerous? Your eyesight is poor, and yet you are not wearing glasses?"

"I know that."

"I am really worried. What would I do if you were to get into dangerous situations because of that?"

"Even so, I am really sorry..... Akiko will not change her decision."

"An incoming ball, an incoming car. If you can't see those things, it'll be rather dangerous, right?"

"Even if it is the Onii-chan whom I deeply love, who is saying such things, this is the only thing that I cannot compromise on."

"I say."

Since she was being stubborn and not listening to me, I would have to change my methods.

"If you are not wearing glasses, then wouldn't you not be able to see your so called 'Onii-chan whom you deeply love' clearly?"

"You've hit the painful spot!"

My sister gave a pitiful wail and collapsed, while crying "uuuuhhhhh".

"..... Yes, that is how it is. Just this point, there are totally no solutions..... I do not wish Onii-chan to see me in my glasses, and yet I cannot see Onii-chan properly without them..... I had to silently endure this dilemma, and it will probably continue to torture me. It will be like this for the rest of my life."

"Urm, if that is the case, why don't you just wear your glasses?"

"No."

"You do wish to see my face clearly, right?"

"That is indeed the case. But upon further thinking, if I am to keep staring at Onii-chan, wouldn't I die from my heart beating too quickly?"

"You will..... yeah right."

"And also, regarding this problem, there is a much simpler solution. Onii-chan will just have to be closer to my face. You just have to continuously stay close to me while we carry on with our everyday lives, regardless of whether we are sleeping or awake..... See, that will be solved, right?"

"If I stay close to you, even if it's just for single day, my everyday life will be destroyed, alright?"

"If possible, I wish we can be at a distance where our lips are about to touch."

"Stop continuing on the topic as though I will stick close to your face and continue living as normal. In any case, I will not do such a thing."

"Please do not say such cold words! If you wish, we can just be separated by a piece of glass!"

"No, no way. This problem can be solved if you just wear your glasses, so wear them properly from now on. Do you understand?"

"Uuhhhhhh....."

"This is an order from your older brother. Clear?"

"Uuuuuuhhhhhhhhh~"

My sister stared at me with teary eyes. Finally, she gave a sigh of resignation.

"..... I understand. Since Onii-chan had put it like that, I have no choice but to listen. I will try to wear my glasses as much as possible..... But."

"But?"

"I will absolutely not wear my glasses when I am alone with Onii-chan."

"Why not?"

"Because I want to show Onii-chan my cutest side. As a woman, this is the least I could do for my Onii-chan whom I love the most. Only this, I will never yield."

"Uhhh."

As usual, she likes to say things that are rather shady.

"I understand, I shall agree on that. You will be wearing glasses unless you are alone with me. OK?"

"Yes. If that's the case, it's fine. Onii-chan is fine with it, right?"

"Ahh..... I still can compromise on things if it's of this level. When I am alone with you, even if there is a ball flying towards you or an incoming car that is about to hit you, I will definitely protect you."

"Fuwa....."

My sister suddenly became wobbly.

"Y-Yet another love attack from you..... But I must hold on. If I always have a nose bleed and faint upon hearing such things, my pride as a teenage girl will be in danger. And also, it's no joke if I am to die of excessive blood loss."

"Why are you still there muttering to yourself? Hurry up, we should get going, there is really not much time left."

I had originally planned to attend the school's opening ceremony at a relaxed pace. The final result was not what I had envisioned. And the problem with me being worn by my uniform was still something that had not been settled yet.

But it does not matter.

The slight uneasiness left in me was totally gone after this mess.

And we had no time to dwell on such small and insignificant matters.

That is because I have to live like this everyday from now on.

That's right.

Just like I had stated right at the start.

This story,

it is a <story of the lives of a pair of brother and sister, who was somehow separated from each other for sometime and for some reasons was reunited again and began living together under one roof, living their lives normally without any major happenings - much like the gentle flow of water, with no bumps and impacts>.

And nothing more.

From today onward, I will have to live my life as ordinary as possible.

Sincerely, giving my all, and doing my best.

That is because I had wasted a lot of my energy in order to live such a life.

"Well then, lets cheer up and move on!"

I cheered myself on loudly, and opened the door with full of energy.

In order to sprint towards the shining and ordinary life, starting from today.

..... Well, even though I had reached the school in that spirited mood.

"So we meet again."

The front gates of St. Ririana academy.

Just when my sister and I had reached the front gate, she walked towards us, against the flow of the students. Like how salmons swam against the flow of rivers in groups to lay eggs at their place of birth.

She had started a conversation with us.

"Even though I had already anticipated it to a certain extent, our school's uniform is really not suitable on you, to the point where my jaws nearly dropped. Well, it is true that you are probably not used to the brand new uniform, but for the uniform to be that unsuitable for you, it can almost be considered a talent of yours. I wish that you will fully train and unleash this unique talent of yours in the future."

"Uhh..... After not seeing each other for a few days, is this the way you greet me!?"

I should have resolved this problem before we got out of the house! Even if it was just so that she cannot nitpick on me, I should have done that!

"Please do not be too concerned about it."

With the usual blank expression,

"Just like before, I just simply wish to waste some time with you. It is not unusual to the point where it requires people to point it out, so relax - well, that should be a good compromise from me."

"Ah, really? I do feel like the uniform is not suitable for me as well....."

"No problem. It suits you in about roughly the same way as the scene of the world's number one bodybuilder waving at the camera while wearing a miniskirt."

"..... In another words, it is not suitable on me to the point where it is something out of this world?"

You don't call that a compromise, you call that rubbing salt onto one's wounds.

..... Forget it, I'll set that aside.

It's Nasuhara Anastasia.

"Morning, Nasuraha."

"Just Anna will do."

"Ahh right. Morning, Anna."

"Hmmpf. To refer to a girl as a hole. You are a really impressive man."

"..... It looks like you love this gag a lot huh?"

She was still the same. Oh well, I am used to it.

Also, even though she made me speechless, but I still felt a little happy.

Because to me, this academy is like a demonic away ground. Although we had only known each other for a short while, it's always good to see someone whom you know. Not only that, but she had greeted me first, so I can only feel happy.

..... Sigh, I am really timid.

Actually, I already had an extremely dependable companion in the form of my of my sister. But even so, I still felt uneasy. Then again, I was quite well taken care of, as a transfer student.

"Wha-Wha-Wha-Wha-Wha"

That was not from someone who was practicing do-re-mi. [TLNote: The previous line was actually "ど、ど、ど、ど、ど", which is read as "do" x5. Next line Akiko said is "どういうことですか兄ちゃん!?". It was just her stammering.]

With her mouth wide opened, her eyes reduced to two dots, and her body trembling, my sister looked at me and Nasuhara back and forth.

"Onii-chan, what is the meaning of this!?"

"Eh? What do you mean by that?"

"Why are you so close with 'that person'?"

Ah.

I see, she was talking about this.

"Why, do you know her - Nasuhara Anastasia?"

"No, totally not!"

"That is impossible, judging from your reaction just now."

"In any case!"

As she said that, my sister stepped between me and Nasuhara, and gave an

intimidating "hmmph".

"Vice-president, please do not get close to my Onii-chan!"

Hmmmm?

Vice-president?

"You don't have to be that tense."

Nasuhara said plainly,

"Your brother and I became acquainted under circumstances that are totally unrelated to you. No matter what happens between me and him, they are not of your concern. That applies even if both of you are blood-related siblings. Don't you think so? You are of the same grade as me, but you are shorter, your breasts are smaller and your grades are poorer than mine. As such, Arisugawa Akiko, you can only be behind me in students council as well, right?"

"Please stop trying to ingeniously take a dig at others while saying all those things as though you are reading a manual or something! And the fact that all the things you had said are accurate, makes me even more angry!"

"Well then can you please step aside?"

"No way! No matter how correct you are, I will never want you to get near to Onii-chan!"

"Oi oi Akiko."

This time, I interrupted.

"There seems to be a lot going on between the two of you, but calm down for a moment. The people around us are watching."

"Onii-chan can say such things, because he had no idea how evil this person is!"

But it looks like my sister had no intention of listening to me.

"And also, there is actually not much difference between that person and me in terms of height or bust size! And the grades are just a difference between number one and number two! And yet she always brings this out to talk about!"

"Well, the fact about me being superior towards you in everything is the truth."

Even though she was facing such accusations from my sister, it just fall deaf on Nasuhara's ears.

"Or should I say, that even though the difference is that small, I still managed to always win over you. That just emphasized the fact that there is an unbridgeable gap between the both of us, no? Don't you think so, secretary of students council - who is of one rank below the vice-president - Arisugawa Akiko?"

"The secretary is an important role as well! And also, didn't you always skip the meetings of the students council!? Acting like that even though you are the vice-president!"

"Even if I did not attend the meetings, I still do my job properly as the vice-president. And also, in our school, the vice-president is tasked with the job of assisting and offering advice to the president. But you do know that the current president is a dictator that is capable beyond words, so there is no need for me to offer any advice - you should be well aware of that if you are a member of the students council. If so, don't you think you are silly to bring out my attendance rate of the meetings at this point of time?"

..... Looks like their relationship is really bad.

But if so, the things that happened previously could all be explained.

My sister and Nasuhara, they were both oversensitive to the smell on my body. This is the reason why.

They had probably detected each other's presence from the little amount of smell that had remained on my body. It was just that little, and yet it had created a huge reaction from them. Just how bad is the relationship between these two? And also, isn't their sense of smell a little too strong?

But with that, the confusion towards my body's smell can be cleared. For me, it was something worth celebrating.....

"Ahhhh enough! You're right!"

It looked like my sister had no intention of sharing my joy.

"Onii-chan! Onii-chan!"

"I am listening. You don't have to shout."

"With that, you understand, right!? That is how this person is! That is why I asked you not to get close to her!"

"I do remember you saying something like 'there is a person you should not get close to', but you did not specify who, right?"

"So even Onii-chan is saying things like 'ah you are right'!? Ah, this is all due to the negative influences from the vice-president! She is indeed the cause of all inflation, the poor market run and the appreciation of Yen!"

My sister started to say some really incredible stuff due to her anger. She stared at her golden-haired superior with eyes that looked like it could spew out fire at any moment.

"In any case, please do not get near my Onii-chan! That is because Onii-chan is the Onii-chan for me, and no one else!"

"I am sorry, but that will not do. Or I should say things are about to go in the direction against your wish."

With that, Nasuhara looked in my direction,

"Himenokouji Akito-kun."

The first time she called me by my name,

"I have a request to you, so can you please listen?"

"Eh? About what?"

And then, still with that blank expression of hers,

"Please allow me to be your girlfriend."

She lowered her head and bowed.

.....

.....

.....

"Eh?"

"Please allow me to be your girlfriend."

"Ugh, I heard that. You don't have to say the same things twice. Eh? But why?"

What is the situation now? Girlfriend, um, it means that 'girlfriend', right? Eh?"

"I am sorry. It must have been quite sudden."

There was still no visible change in Nasuhara's expressions.

"I shall explain it clearer. It means that from now on, while you are with me, please spare part of your brain to consider going out with me in the future, like a pair of lovers would. You do not have to answer me now."

"Eh? No. That....."

Whoa.....

This was getting troublesome.

I could not follow up with what was happening. Both my mind and body.

"Instead of calling it a confession, you can think of it as a declaration from me. I am just stating my stand, in hope that you will know about this. It is just that, so stop being so shocked."

"Ugh..... Urm, I say. Anna?"

"Hmmmph. To call a girl as a hole. You are a really impressive man."

"Urg, in any case stop harping on that."

"Oh. Then?"

"Urm, regarding that..... Why?"

"Why, as in, why did I confess?"

"Ahh. Mmm. Yes."

"Because I love you."

"....."

With just two lines, I could no longer carry on.

If you feel like laughing, please go ahead.

To be confessed this directly, purely and suddenly, while in the public,

surrounded by many people. If there is someone who can calmly accept it and reply to her, please introduce him to me - I wish to befriend that person.

"Wait! Wait a minute!" [TLNote: This is in English]

My sister, who looked like she had ninety percent of her life energy taken away from her, finally interrupted.

"I can't understand what you said! Oh my God..... Oh my God! Please tell me why! Why do you do so..... such a strange, unbelievable, immoral, and..... Ahhhhhhhh!" [TLNote: This is in English]

"Calm down, Akiko. Return back to Japan."

"Korega otituite iraremasuka! Onii-chan in tikazuku dakedemo ikari-sintou nanoni! Sonoue ko, ko, ko, koku-haku nante! Eei, korewo misugoshiteha okemasen! Kyo kosoha anohito to kecchaku wo tukenakereba!" [TLNote: How can I calm down like this! I am already furious at the fact that she is near Onii-chan! To think that she actually co-co-co-confessed! Ahhhh, I cannot let her off just like that! I definitely have to settle everything with her today!]

It looked like she was too emotional to know what language she should be speaking in.

"Ahaha. Great, great. This is really not bad!"

Just then, came a laughter which I had heard of before.

"The feeling that something huge is about to happen - it doesn't make one hate it. Isn't it fun to be entangled in love-related matters on the very first day of school. Hmm?"

I took a look, and saw a female student who had split the crowd and was walking in our direction.

Red hair, eye-patch, Japanese sword.

A savage yet beautiful lady with the nickname 'Predator', just like a cheetah prancing through the fields - president of St. Ririana Academy's students council, Nikaido Arashi.

"Yo, good morning, my cute little subordinates."

"Good morning" - as usual, Nasuhara replied with the blank expression of hers.

"..... Good morning," and here at this side, my sister in red alert.

"Hmm. Today, both of you are prettier than before. Why? You two have finally decided to be my lovers? Hm?"

"Forgive me, but I decline." my sister answered immediately.

"....." As for Nasuhara, she had totally ignored it.

"I say, students council president," my sister pressed on. "We are slightly busy here. Can you step aside for a while?"

"Oi oi that is cold. Why are you treating me - who had confessed to you over ten times already - as someone who gets in the way?"

"It is not 'as', but you really are a person who gets in the way. The president will make things messier than they already are, so please go somewhere else."

"I will listen to you if you are willing to be my lover."

"I humbly decline. I dislike loose people like the president, and also I have no interest in love between the same sex. Moreover, I am absolutely loyal to Onii-chan."

"Ahaha, so I am dumped by you again for today huh. Forget it, the harder it takes to get you, the more achievement I will feel when I do. And also-"

With that, Nikaido-senpai turned her sight towards me.

..... Uwa...

This person is absolutely bewitching.

Although she looks rather unrefined, like a vagabond, and no matter what she looked like one who'd give you the impression that she is rough. Being stared at by her eyes, it felt like I was being licked by a wet tongue on the back.

If we are talking about cuteness, it has to be my sister.

If it is beauty, that will be Nasuhara.

But if we are talking about sexiness, then this person will be number one - that was how it felt like.

"Himenokouji Akito."

"Ah. Yes?"

"I order you."

As she said that, she opened up a piece of paper.

"From today and now onward, you are to be a special member of the students council. That is all."

"..... What?"

"Sorry, but you are in no position to reject it. That is because in our school, the students' president's powers are absolute."

"Ugh, even if you say that....."

"Incidentally, your official title is 'Deputy Assistant of Secretary'."

"..... In the end, that cannot even be considered as an official member, right? Creating such a worthless position in the students council, what exactly do you want me to do?"

"To be my lover."

"Pardon me, but I humbly decline."

"Ahaha, don't say that. It's nothing much, you can just smoke through it by counting the number of holes in the ceiling~"

"Hang on a second, president!"

That was my sister interrupting.

"What is the meaning of this?"

"You heard everything, right? Your Onii-chan whom you loved, will become my cute lover starting from today."

"I do not wish to listen to such horrible jokes! Really, why are you doing such things on your own! You actually wanted Onii-chan, who don't even know much people in the school, to enter the students council..... No matter how popular or capable president is, I can never allow such dictatorial behavior!"

"Don't put it to heart. It has always been like this."

"Please do not put it like it has nothing to do with anyone else! Also, why didn't you discuss this with me? This matter actually concerns my Onii-chan!"

"Calm down and think clearly for a moment. Your brother's position is the 'Deputy Assistant of Secretary', which means that as the secretary, you have became the superior of your brother. Do you know what that means?"

"Uuuuhhh.....?"

My sister's expressions softened a little.

"Onii-chan is my subordinate..... which means I can order Onii-chan around as I wish.....?"

"Not just that. As such, you can always be with your brother from now on. It took you guys a great deal to be back together again, but to be separated in school..... If it becomes like this, you will feel lonely as well, right?"

"Uuuuuuuuhhhhhhhhhhh....."

"And also, if your brother is to enter the students council, it will allow me to keep my lover by my side, that is how it is. I have totally killed three birds with one stone."

"Wait a second! I was so nearly convinced, but just that point-"

"Students council president."

Just then.

Nasuhara, who had been silently watching all these, raised her hand,

"I object. Himenokouji Akito is a man whom I had set my sights on. Are you saying all these things despite knowing that?"

"Yeah. Of course I know that, vice-president."

"If so, please give up. If someone like you, who have so many lovers that you can't even hug them all with both arms of yours, feel like your harem is not well stocked, then please find someone else."

"That will not do. If I was to meekly give up the man whom I am interested in, just because another girl said she was interested in him first - it will tarnish my reputation as a woman."

"And so it is. I understand, president. I'll treat you as an enemy of mine, Even though this is not my original intention, there are things that I can never give in as well."

"Ahaha, great, that's great. I like things like this the most, you know? To be involved in a love that makes one suffocate, to be distraught by the matters of the heart. That is totally the wish of women, and since I was born as one, it will not do if I do not get myself involved in it. "

"Wait, hold on a second! Please stop for a moment!"

My sister wailed, while stopping them.

She was just protesting the fact that they had totally ignored my opinions- of course, she did not cry out for that reason,

"Please do not go on by yourselves and saying such things! Ever since birth, Onii-chan has been exclusively my Onii-chan! He had been pre-ordered, no, purchased away! If both of you saying such things only now, it will not work-"

"You sayin'?"

"What are you talking about?"

The president and vice-president both said at the same time.

"You and him are siblings, right? Ever since the beginning, you are not to be included in all this."

"I know you treasure your brother a lot, but doncha' think there is something wrong if you are to interrupt us now?"

"N-Nothing of that sort! The love between Onii-chan and I are not just of that level-"

"Can you guys hold on for a second?"

The voice stopping them was not mine.

Of course, it was not of Nasuhara or Nikaido-senpai. Neither was it from that incompetent sister of mine.

"If you people are to talk about that, then please include me in as well."

"—!?"

The voice that I should not be hearing, came from a person who should not be here.

The person who appeared from the rather noisy crowd was,

"Gin!?"

"Hi Akito. It has been a while since we met."

I couldn't be seeing wrongly.

That silver hair that does not look like it belonged to a Japanese. Pale green eyes. A slim tiny body like that of a child.

My friend whom I respect, who should be in Kyoto - it was Sawatori Ginbee Haruomi herself alright.



"I say, what are you doing here! And what's with that attire of yours!"

"Ahh. This?"

My friend lifted the bottom of her blouse,

"Isn't this a really great design. I like it a lot."

"No not that! I am asking why you are dressed in St. Ririana Academy's uniform!?"

"That really doesn't sound like a question that you would ask, Akito. A person who is in St. Ririana Academy, wearing the uniform of that school. Wouldn't there be only one answer?"

"..... So you had transferred over?"

"I should have said that before, Akito."

Ginbee laughed lightly while winking.

"Just give up and accept my revenge, that is how it is. It can't be that you had forgotten about it, right?"

Ahh.

She did say that before.

Things like she will pay me back many folds, and asking me to prepare myself for the real revenge, and telling me that she will be visiting me soon. However,

"Really..... what sort of 'prank-like revenge' is this? My heart nearly stopped beating for a moment, really. Please let me off."

"Mmm. It is for the best if you are really shocked. If not, it would have been a waste for all of my efforts."

"Playing such pranks, it is really a bad habit of yours."

"Well don't worry, The only target of my pranks is you."

"That is even worse, alright! To think you had actually said things like 'so you are not planning to come back here' and stuff, so they were all lies..... Ahhhh, you! Enough of that!"

"W-Wait! Hold on a second!"

Just then, my sister interrupted frantically.

"Onii-chan, this person is the one you had told me about....."

"Ahh sorry, I'll introduce her now. Sawatari Ginbee Haruomi, a friend of mine. While at Kyoto's house- at Takanomiya, our relationship had been really close. Just as you had heard, it looks like she will be a student of this academy as well starting from today, though I really have no idea what the heck is she thinking of..... This fella comes from a rather complicated family as well, so it should not have been easy for her to transfer-"

"No, even though I wish to know more about that! But compared to those things!"

"Ah- right, right. Even though she had such a name, but she is of northern-Europe blood lineage. However, unlike her looks, she is a Japanese through and through, but that is due to her family as well-"

"No not that! Even though I am curious about it, but compared to that!"

"Compared to that?"

"Isn't she a girl, that person!"

"Eh?"

..... Ahhhh.

So that was it.

I totally did not notice it.

For me, it was something that is natural to me, and thus I had forgotten to mention it.

Well even though her name and her way of speech are like that of a scholar from the Meiji era, Sawatari Ginbee Haruomi is a really pretty girl.

Indeed, both her looks and her personalities are a little too unique, but that is caused by her rather complex family conditions-

"Well then,"

Even though I said that, they have nothing to do with the things in hand.

As usual, my friend tilted her body slightly and gave a slight smile, and looked to and fro at Nasuhara and Nikaido-senpai.

"Nice meeting you all for the first time, acquaintances of Akito. The relationship between me and Akito can be considered as rather close. I have no intention of nitpicking like a young lady, but I do not wish for others to vie for the rights of his ownership, at a place that I am not familiar with."

"Oi oi Ginbee."

She was rather blunt towards the people whom she was meeting for the very first time. There will be trouble if I do not help to mediate things.

"What's with you using that hostile tone of yours right from the start? Aren't you the same as me- no, less familiar about this academy than me? You should be more friendly, since we are fated to meet."

"You are right, but from my personal stand, there are reasons for me not to yield. Similarly, there are things that I cannot forgive, and things that I cannot accept and swallow."

"..... Is that so. Mmm, so that's how it is."

After being rejected strongly by my friend, I can't help but be touched and embarrassed at the same time."

"Thank you Ginbee. It had been always like this, but nevertheless I have to thank you. You had been like this ever since the beginning. You had always been concerned about things related to me, and this time, you had even transferred over to this school due to you worrying about me. Even now, you have totally ignored my objections in order to help me. I am really really grateful. It is really my honor to have you as my friend."

"..... Arara."

But for some unknown reasons, Ginbee sighed and shook her head.

Then, with a stunned expression, she muttered,

"His treatment towards me is way too much. A girl that came all the way to eastern Japan by herself, and yet he still cannot understand the reason behind it. This perfectly proves the saying that 'there is no medication for a dense person'. But this is just like Akito's style....."

"Eh? What? I didn't catch that."

"Nothing. I am just talking to myself. In any case, I-"

"Ahaha! Great, great!"

That was Nikaido-senpai laughing heartily.

"Things have finally became interesting. Arara, it is totally developing in the direction I want it to be..... What a great first day of school!"

It looked like she was shivering her shoulders from delight, while taking a look around.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

Sawatari Ginbee Haruomi.

She looked at them in that sequence.

"Just like what that pervert had said, it can be considered as fate for three beautiful girls with similar stands to come together. In any case, it is not something that can be settled in merely a few days. Let us put aside all the long-winded talks, and proceed to deepen the friendship between girls..... how's that? Hmm?"

"Yes."

Nasuhara nodded her head.

"Well, I don't think we can deepen our friendship by much, since we are enemies of one another. But I do agree that we all have nothing to gain by getting into a conflict here."

"I feel the same as well."

Ginbee continued,

"I am just a newcomer who knows nothing about the current situation. I had made necessary preparations, but this academy should have some unspoken rules. It will be really great if I know more about those things."

"Well then, it's decided."

Nikaido-senpai, who was smiling brighter and brighter, clapped her hands with a *pa*.

"We shall postpone this battle for the moment. Let us set aside everything and take a drink, that will be the fastest way of deepening our friendship."

"President. What about the opening ceremony?"

"Didn't I just say to set aside everything for the moment? Just skip that thing. Skip it."

"So we are skipping some routine activities to hold a drinking party..... I am surprised to see it coming from a famous royalty school."

"Ahaha. Well Ginbee, I did not say anything about alcohol, right? Also, in this academy, the most important thing is to be flexible. Those who only knows how to study, will not be able to survive here. When it is time for work, work properly. When it is time to play, play happily. One have to know how to balance between the two."

It looks like the topic was getting really messy.

"Alright, since it had been decided, then let us not waste any time. Lets quickly

move to the students council room—"

"*Sto——p! Stop stop stop!*"

Well, I guess she had the right to do that.

My sister, who was put aside and totally ignored, let out a huge yell,

"Hold on a second! So you guys think you can ignore me since I had not said anything!? Why didn't you all ask about my opinions before deciding on such an important thing!? No matter how you look at it, that is very strange!"

"..... What you saying?"

"..... What are you talking about?"

"..... What are you talking about huh?"

Nikaido-senpai, Nasuhara and Ginbee.

Their voices came out in perfect synchronization.

"We had just said that, didn't we? That you are the sister of Himenokouji Akito."

"I had said right from the start, that you cannot be included into the mix. Do not interrupt, or things will become even more complicated."

"You are Akito's sister. We will try to respect your opinions as much as possible, but you have to know the limits as well."

"N-Nothing of that sort!"

My sister bite onto them tightly without letting go.

"The love between me and Onii-chan is real! Taboo and whatever are meaningless in the face of true love! Being blood related is just an insignificant matter!"

"You, that is just too atrocious," said Nikaido-senpai.

"It is that insignificant matter that poses the most problem," Nasuhara said.

"Use your common sense and think. Your common sense," said Ginbee.

"Nothing of that sort! There are nothing of that sort!"

Bring in an extremely unfavorable position, my sister's cringed her face like a child. With a look that was close to crying,

"The link that me and Onii-chan have are absolute! Ever since birth - except for the period of time when we were separated due to some family problems - we

had been together always! And the time we had spent together are not just for show! Onii-chan had saved me from the children who loved to bully me. He had helped me to eat the celery which I dislike eating. He slept together with me on nights where I couldn't sleep. And also, he had fulfilled his promise, by living together with me again! It is natural for Onii-chan to develop feelings for me that are way beyond that of siblings!"

"Well, if that is what you think,"

Nikaido-senpai shrugged,

"Why don't you ask your brother? That is faster."

"A-Ask Onii-chan?"

Finally, as someone who was unable to interrupt all these talks, it was my turn to speak.

Nikaido-senpai, Nasuhara, Ginbee.

The three of them focused their attention onto me.

"Onii-chan.....?"

With both of her hands clasped in front of her chest, it is the same for my sister as well. She lifted her head and looked at me with eyes as though she was praying.

"Akiko."

I looked straight into my sister's eyes.

Word by word, I said slowly.

"You are a good girl."

"R-Really.....?"

"Of course it is real. You are honest and cheerful, and you listen to me. You do everything well without the need of me asking. If that is not a good girl, then I don't know what is."

"I, had I returned Onii-chan's expectations.....?"

"Of course. You had in fact exceeded my expectations. And you are not just a good girl, but a cute child as well."

"Really!?"

"Of course it is. The fact that you love to laugh is cute. The way you laughed with your fang showing is cute. Even though your eyebrows are slightly arched,

but the gentle expression in your eyes are cute. Your neat fringes are cute too. The fast tempo of your steps when walking, that is cute. When you are sitting with a straight back, that look of yours is cute. Also, the fact that you throw a tantrum easily is cute, but being able to recover from it quickly is even cuter. I had always treasured you, who acted like that."

"Wa. Wa. Why is this happening? Whoa?"

"I love you, Akiko."

"M-Me too! Towards Onii-chan, I had always-"

"But ultimately, my love towards you is just as that of an elder brother towards his younger sister."

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!?"

Her sparkling expression changed.

My sister expressed her despair with the expressions of the characters found in Glass no Kamen. [TLNote: Shoujo manga. Google if interested]

"Onii-chan you are an idiot! Meanie! I don't care anymore! Uwaaaaaaaa!"

She ran away while crying.

..... Ugh.

Did I go slightly overboard?

Oh well, she can just treat that as a lesson.

If I was to reject my sister's wishful thinking in public, then that will probably reduce the negative influences it may have on our school's lives in the future.

Come to think of it, where are you running to? The opening ceremony is about to start, you know?

"Well then, the talk shall end here."

Nikaido-senpai's expression showed that she totally did not care about that small incident.

"Let's move to another place. The students council room generally has everything that we possibly need, as it is my stronghold. Alright, onlookers, the show's over. Disperse now or else you all will not be able to make it for the opening ceremony."

"I do not think that is something which should be said by someone who is about to skip the opening ceremony. Oh well, just this once, I am in the same boat as you."

"Oh, as expected of the vice-president, your brain moves really quick. I like that point about you the best. If you are to agree to be my lover, there will be no flaws."

"Ugh. These developments are certainly unexpected..... is this the culture of this school as well? I had spent a lot of effort to transfer over, but it looks like they are not in vain."

"Ahaha. You adapt quick. Name's Ginbee? You are new here, yet you are still able to maintain such levels of calmness despite facing the wrath of the students council members - that is a rather rare quality. How about this - the treasurer's position is still open, are you interested-"

Those three ladies looked as though they fit right at home in each others company.

They walked shoulder to shoulder, and while ignoring the onlookers and me, they left the place harmoniously.

I have to apologize for going against what I had announced publicly.

<A story of the lives of a pair of brother and sister, who was somehow separated from each other for sometime and for some reasons was reunited again and began living together under one roof, living their lives normally without any major happenings - much like the gentle flow of water, with no bumps and impacts>.

That was what I had said, but somehow, unknown to me, it became totally the opposite of that.

The students council president, who acts just like her name suggests.

The vice-president, whom everyone agrees is hard to get along with.

The treasurer (-to-be?) whom I treat as my good friend.

The secretary, who is my rather incompetent sister.

And also, me, who had somehow became the errand-boy of the students council.

I am really regretful to say this.

To wish to live an ordinary life and whatever - after gathering such a group of people, it is just much easier to win the lottery, or to rear a match-winning race-dog. And in a certain sense, conquering the whole world is an easier task as well.

For someone like me, whose looks and grades are ordinary, and has neither any motives nor secret abilities, this is a really serious problem.

The two-thirds of my high school life that I am left with, is about to develop rather messily - I absolutely detest it.

In order to live with my sister again, I had spent a lifetime of diligence into it. An unstable lifestyle is nothing but a pain to me.

But that is not to say that I have already given up.

Even though I am currently in a situation where the people around me are engaged in battles everyday, there is still enough energy in me to want to do something about the situation.

To live each ordinary day in peace - that is the only seemingly difficult wish that I want to fulfill. From today onward, I will do try to do my best to achieve it.

Everybody - even the Arisugawa and Takanomiya - firmly believes in the blood ties I have with my sister. However, the truth is not like that as written in the records.

As fraternal twins, there are absolutely no blood relations between me and my younger sister - we are totally not related to each other.

The feelings of me giving up on my 'ordinary daily life' - I shall hide it in my heart for now. I'll just write up till here for today.

If fate allows it, we shall meet again.

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ShinOtoko

(Dat Normal-Fag part-timing as Ginbē's Husbando
who's happen to have too much time so decided to
make some half-assed PDF kthxbye)